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The GEM
News, Sport, Letters, Features, What's On, Jobs, Motors....

The Glamorgan GEM

"Your ORIGINAL priceless weekly newspaper"
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Established 1983

Weekly audited distribution (52 weeks) to 31/12/09 - **43,445**
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THURSDAY, APRIL 1ST, 2010

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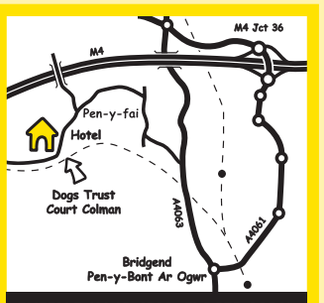
Turn left at 1st and 2nd roundabouts, go under motorway bridge. Turn right signposted Dogs' Rehoming Centre. Turn left and then right towards Court Colman. The Centre is on the right after the Hotel.



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THURSDAY, APRIL 1ST, 2010

PTA fundraisers' 250 grand plan for Cowbridge school

Report by PHILIP IRWIN

PARENTS and friends of Cowbridge Comprehensive are launching an ambitious plan to raise a quarter-of-a-million pounds to equip the new school when it opens in September.

To show that the group mean business, a total of £40,000 is already in the bank, but they are now calling for a major effort to hit the target by September.

This week, the Cowbridge Comprehensive School fundraising committee confirmed plans to raise the £250,000.

The campaign secretary, Mat Holloway, said: "We are so pleased that at last the school will be on one site with safe, modern buildings and great facilities.

"However, most people don't realise that an additional £250,000 pounds is needed to fully equip the theatre, sports facilities and library.

"The new school needs sound equipment, lights and curtains for the theatre; sports equipment such as cricket nets, netball rings, and improved lighting; and new books for the library."

The plan is for the school to become a community facility, with local residents using it in the evenings and in school holidays whenever possible.

The main hall, which will function as an exhibition space or as a theatre, is earmarked for community use, as are the sporting facilities.

Mat Holloway said: "The icing on the cake is that community groups will be entitled to use these great new facilities out of school hours.

"We're appealing to former pupils, parents and future parents of children in the school, and anyone who wants to see the best possible school facilities in our community, to help us buy the equipment we need to make a great school fantastic."

The campaign chairman, Charlie Puddicombe, said: "When the fundraising committee was formed a year ago, we were faced with a significant shortfall to provide all the facilities parents wished for.

"Working in close partnership with the school, the fundraising committee has prioritised £250,000 worth of equipment to be provided by September this year."

He revealed: "Through the generosity of corporate donors, a private trust and several individuals, we have already raised more than £40,000.

"The campaign committee has also applied to trust funds and corporate sponsors throughout the country. We now need all supporters of the school to dig deep to help us reach our target by September.

"You can donate an engraved brick, join us on a golf day, come to an alumni ball, support PTA events and much more.

"Regular website updates at *www.cowbridgecomp2010.co.uk* will keep everyone informed about fundraising progress and upcoming events.

"If anyone needs more information they can call me on 07740 869620, or email enquiries@cowbridgecomp2010.co.uk," said Mat.

"We're determined to raise every penny needed to make a great school fantastic."

Euro blast furnace shock for rural Vale

ANOTHER GEM EXCLUSIVE

DUBIOUS Dutch tycoon Pieter Van Bleuw has emerged as the man behind a highly controversial plan by a Brussels-backed European power consortium to build a large industrial smelting plant on the Welsh heritage coast, overlooking towns and villages in the Vale.

If the multi-million pound project goes ahead, the consortium insists that the coke-burning blast furnace, featuring a steel tubular 'chimney', emitting noxious gases into the atmosphere, will present "*very little risk to human health or the environment*".

The mind-boggling scheme will also see a huge industrial jetty and ore storage yard built on the beach at Ogmore-by-Sea or Llantwit Major.

There, coke will be unloaded around the clock from a fleet of foreign cargo vessels and transported on massive 10-ton trucks trundling day and night through the lanes to feed the hungry furnace at the as yet unidentified site.

On the telephone from his head offices in the dockland area of Amsterdam today, Van Bleuw (who is well known to regular readers of The GEM) insisted that the plant with its 60ft tower – specially designed in the shape of a giant daffodil – will "*blend in very sensitively with your lovely Welsh countryside*" and become a major tourist attraction, like the famous 'Angel of the North' sculpture in northern England.

That, though, will do little to reassure ouraged local residents and 'green' campaigners in the Vale, and also in Bridgend.

Van Bleuw claimed today that his new project had the full support of Germany, France and his native Holland "*at the highest government level*" and he was confident it would be "*forced through*" the European Parliament in Brussels, over-riding any objections from Vale Council planners, or the Welsh Assembly and British governments.

"*Any opposition, at local or national level, is therefore pointless. This smelting plant is in the best interests of a Greater Europe, as well as your own economy, providing jobs to help bring you out of recession,*" he warned today.

"*It will go ahead, whether people there like it or not. This time, you cannot afford to be insular!*"

(Long standing GEM readers will know that Van Bleuw was referring to the time he wrote to us – coincidentally, 10 years ago to the day– after plans by Waitrose for a modern food store on the cattle market site in Cowbridge failed, following fierce protests led by the 'Keep Cowbridge Special' group).

"*I still follow the news closely over there through The GEM on-line and I see that you now have a Tesco store in the middle of the High Street – and that meanwhile, after all this time, the cattle market site is still undeveloped! Perhaps I should again consider moving my operations to Cowbridge, to be near my exciting new venture!*"

As The GEM exclusively revealed at the time, the notorious tycoon built his immense fortune through a seedy blue movie-making empire on the Continent.

After Waitrose withdrew from Cowbridge, he offered to step in and relocate to purpose-built film studios on the cattle market site and recruit local actors to "*get all your unemployed people off the streets*".

Does that plan still stand today? "*Ah, this I cannot say!*" he replied mysteriously, before abruptly ringing off.

Local residents, though, should not be fooled!

Ex-police chief rapped

THE former South Wales Chief Constable Barbara Wilding has come under fire from Plaid Cymru Assembly Member Leanne Wood – for using a police constable as her personal chauffeur.

A Freedom of Information request by the AM revealed that the officer was used as a driver between January 2008 and December 2008 before the post was civilianised. A police constable's salary on September 1, 2008 ranged from £22,104 to £34,707 a year.

Ms Wood pointed out that the revelations come just over a year after Barbara Wilding complained of declining police levels and inadequate financial support for a force responsible for covering a population of more than 1.2m people.

The regional Assembly Member said: "People will no doubt question whether a fully trained police constable should have been taken off front-line duties for a whole year to chauffeur Barbara Wilding around in a plush car.

"As Chief Constable, she complained a lot about the force's funding settlement and closed police stations. It is staggering that given that, she has been so wasteful.

"While I'm glad that a constable is no longer responsible for driving the Chief Constable I'm sure most people will not be able to understand why Ms Wilding was unable to drive herself around."

The Freedom of Information request also revealed that a Lexus GS450 was purchased for the use of Barbara Wilding under its Chief Officers Scheme in 2008 – the cost £31,867.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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'UNINFORMED CRITICISM OF TOURISM PLAN'

I MUST reply to recent correspondence making unfounded and uninformed criticism of the recently-published draft tourism strategy for the Vale of Glamorgan Council's area.

This is a strategic document that seeks to influence the development of the vital tourism economy of our county over the next few years.

The strategy contains a Vale-wide series of proposals that will bring greatly enhanced benefits to every community, not just Barry Island, and has been carefully drafted to make the most of the opportunities that are either currently available, or may become available in the not too distant future.

I feel it is important to also point out that the strategy has been produced without costly external consultants and has been developed in consultation with established successful local tourism businesses.

Tourism already brings 3.5 million visitors into the Vale every year and this is worth £163 million to businesses in the area.

I urge every reader to let the council, and its hard-working tourism officers, have some positive comments on the proposals that the Conservative-led authority will implement to bring about change throughout the Vale.

As the strategy acknowledges, a successful tourism product will bring many benefits, but this can only be achieved by all interested parties working together.

Anthony M. Ernest
Cabinet member for tourism and leisure

'Drivers block my driveway'

I LIVE in St Paul's Avenue, Barry, which has two schools at the top end of the street, and I am one of the lucky/unlucky few people that have a garage with a drive that leads on to the roadway.

I am unlucky in that for a good few years now, parents of children who attend these schools seem to find it acceptable to park at any time across my driveway when collecting their children – even at times leaving their cars for extensive periods.

Upon returning to my house the other day, as always someone was parked across my drive.

Looking up the street, there were no spaces, so I was forced to drive around the block in the hope one would become available – but no such luck.

Left with no option, I had to temporarily park my car for 15 minutes on double yellow lines.

On returning to move my vehicle back outside my house, I found I had incurred a fixed penalty from the South Wales Police.

I have now been informed that if I see any vehicle parked across my drive I should inform the relevant authorities, who will take care of matters for me.

After years of biting my tongue with parents, I am now going to make sure that those guilty of this practice will incur the same penalty as I have done.

Richard McDonnell, Barry

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Tory delegation replies to criticism...

'Why we went to Stuttgart'

LAST week, The GEM published a letter questioning a visit some colleagues and I made to Bosch in Stuttgart, to try to save 900 job losses and to negotiate a positive way forward on the disposal of the vast site.

I can assure your readers that my colleagues and I financed the visit and nothing was drawn from the public purse. We stated this publicly at the time.

However, I cannot believe that someone is questioning my motives in trying to save such high quality jobs, when unemployment in Wales is the highest in the UK.

As the shadow Industry Minister in the Assembly, I hope readers will accept that I have a part to play in seeking to reduce any job losses in any part of Wales.

My colleagues and I were shocked that the Labour and Plaid Ministers hadn't met the senior executives to see if anything could be done, so we felt that we should.

They later arranged their own visit, which I understand cost the public purse more than £5,000.

Our visit to Stuttgart amounted to a 5:30am check-in at Heathrow and a return home on the same evening at 9pm, so I hope the letter writer is not suggesting that it was a jolly!

Sadly, we didn't save any job losses, but we have agreed constructive steps for the disposal of this important site, that will fully involve the community.

Alun Cairns, Barry (Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for the Vale)

Euro would have left us in a mess!

AS someone who voted in the referendum of 1975 for Britain to get out of the Common Market, as the European Union was then called, and which we believed was merely a market with no political intentions involved, I have never wavered from that opinion!

Therefore with reference to your correspondent Roger Everest, Pontyclun (The GEM March 11), who argued we should have joined the Eurozone in 2002, I am grateful that we did not join it and adopt the Euro, which could have placed Britain in a similar position to that which Greece finds itself now!

I believe that Spain and Portugal, possibly Italy, and even Ireland, are finding difficulties because they are not able to set their own taxes to get themselves out of trouble, with Brussels dictating the terms.

Mrs DE Coombes Herridge, Barry

Council not signed up to energy cuts

YOUR readers may like to know that the Conservative-controlled Vale Council have decided not to sign up to a national campaign which is helping to protect our environment.

The 10:10 campaign aims to reduce energy consumption by 10 per cent during 2010 and is supported by 1,103 organisations throughout the UK – even Tory Leader David Cameron and his shadow cabinet have signed up!

But at the Vale Council's cabinet meeting on February 17, they cynically agreed to just "note" my request to join this crucial campaign.

This decision proves that for all their green rhetoric and handpainted tree logos, Tories evade green action to save our environment at local level at every opportunity. Nearly half of the councils in Britain have signed up to the campaign.

Protecting our environment should be a key element on every council agenda. The scientific consensus is now very clear...climate change is one of the biggest threats facing mankind.

Rob Curtis, Barry (Labour councillor, Vale Council)

'Thank you for backing the Vale Heritage Centre'

MAY I, through The GEM, thank all the members of the public with an interest in local history, who turned out to show their support for a Heritage Centre for the Vale at the council scrutiny meeting last week?

Their support was greatly appreciated and showed to the councillors the level of backing that this idea has.

The proposal is now set to go before the cabinet and we eagerly await their decision to conduct a feasibility study.

The prospect of a permanent home for the rich history of this county has never been better.

I would urge supporters to lobby their local councillors to make the most of this splendid opportunity.

Dr Jonathan Hicks, Barry

Thank you, GEM

To everyone at The GEM, I would like to say thank you for my Album Cover Stamps' prize, which I received a few weeks ago. It was a very nice surprise.

Liz Richfield, St Athan

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 08)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
01 Thur	08.43	10.2	21.01	10.1
02 Fri	09.21	10.1	21.41	9.8
03 Sat	09.59	9.5	22.18	9.3
04 Sun	10.39	8.8	22.57	8.5
05 Mon	11.14	8.1	23.41	8.0
06 Tues			12.08	7.4
07 Wed	00.44	7.3	13.27	7.0
08 Thur	02.17	7.2	15.09	7.0

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide tablespecific to their location.

USEFUL VALE INFORMATION

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111
(Emergency number 999)
COASTGUARD 01792 366534
FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
Mental Health Helpline:
Freephone **0800 132 737**
MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan
01446 730792 or www.mindinthevale.org.uk
CHILDLINE 0800 1111 - www.childline.org.uk
Rape Crisis Centre 08451 221331.
RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191.
AIDS helplines 0800 567123.
Child abuse – NSPCC 0808 800 5000.
Alcoholics Anonymous – (24 hours) 0845 7697555.
Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000.
Inroads Drugs Project – 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.
Vale Victim & Witness Support -
Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

CITIZENS' ADVICE

At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Drop in Mon-Fri (not Weds) 9.30am - 4.30am (Wed 11am-6pm); at Llantwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road 9.30am - 11.30am Mon and Fri. Telephone advice 0845 120 3756. *Further information www.adviceguide.org.uk*

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999.

Gas - Gas emergency number 0800 111999.

Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water - Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130.

Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 700111. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline, 01446 700111.

To report a fly tipping incident - 01446 700111.

HOSPITALS

The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.

For Out Of Hours Chemists, call the Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board on 02920 350600, or NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647.

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Aberthaw worker who robbed local taxi driver is jailed

EXCLUSIVE by AJ SICLUNA

AN Aberthaw power station worker put a screwdriver to the neck of a taxi driver seconds before robbing him of his takings.

Cardiff Crown Court heard that Scott Winder (22) had drunk 15 pints of lager, four bottles of strong cider and six shots of spirits before getting into the taxi.

Winder of Fort Road, Penarth was jailed for two and a half years.

He had been found guilty of a charge of robbery.

Judge Paul Thomas said: "Lots of people do stupid things and often they are not serious, but this was."

He said he could not accept that there was any remorse because Winder had pleaded not guilty and "fought the matter all the way".

The courts, he said, had to protect vulnerable people such as taxi drivers.

Prosecutor Nuhu Gobir said that in the early hours of July 19 Winder stopped a taxi at Barry Island driven by Mr Imran Maqbool and said he wanted to be taken to the Marconi Inn in Penarth.

He was told the fare was £17. Winder said he had only £15 and this was accepted.

As they neared the destination, Winder became aggressive, swearing, and punching Mr Maqbool while he was driving.

He then produced a screwdriver and put it towards his neck.

Mr Maqbool was so frightened he returned the £15. Winder said he wanted more money and snatched a further £15 before running from the cab.

Winder was arrested the following morning, put his hands in his head, and said: "I've got all the money. I had a really bad night. The drink got to me and I'm really sorry."

Winder had denied the charge. He said he took the money, but had offered no violence.

Jeffrey Jones, defending, said: "There was no planning. It was spontaneous. He was stupid and drunk."

Normally, he is polite and considerate, he said.

"This was an alarming offence, totally out of character.

"He greatly fears going into custody. Fortunately, his background is stable and supportive."

Gardeners' questions raise funds for Physic Garden

ABOVE: Jo Homfray, Dan Clayton-Jones, Ivor Mace, Scilla Williams, Julie Moss, Robert Moore, Genevieve Thomas, and Val Caple. **Photograph by Mike Wilcock.**

by MIKE MEREDITH

COWBRIDGE Physic Garden's second annual *Gardeners' Question Time* drew more than 100 people to the Bear Hotel's St Quentin's Suite for a lively debate on horticultural topics of the day – from plant propagation to herbal remedies and more.

Three experienced panellists, under the guidance of Dan Clayton-Jones, the garden's chairman, fielded a wide range of horticultural questions, some prepared, others spontaneous, all of which made for an entertaining evening.

Dan Clayton-Jones told an earlier annual general meeting of the organisation that the garden depended for its existence entirely on membership donations and fund-raising events for its continued well-being. He thanked all of those taking part for their support.

Ivor Mace, Scilla Williams and Julie Moss comprised the expert panel with Dan Clayton-Jones keeping the programme up to speed; dealing with moles in lawns, coping with overgrown hedges and a range of questions on herbal medicines such as aloe vera, many derived from plants grown in the Physic Garden, ensured that the event ran like a clock, in similar vein to the BBC's *Just a Minute* – without repetition, hesitation or deviation!

In total, *Gardeners' Question Time* raised more than £400 to help the Physic Garden's cause, with a raffle helping to swell the funds.

Sleeping in the Dragon's Den!

THE 1st Cowbridge Beaver Scouts had another sleepover weekend from March 6-7.

Once again they slept in the Scout Hall in a yurt kindly lent by Coed Hills Rural Artspace, and the theme this time was 'Dragons', so it became the Dragon's Den. Having put it up, the Beavers had a Dragon Hunt in Mount Ida woods.

From there they walked to St Quentin's Castle in Llanblethian and, after exploring it and trying out the dungeons, they had a mock battle on the hillside.

After supper they flew dragons on parachutes from the balcony of the hall by torchlight, and after a campfire with songs and conjuring tricks, they settled down for the night listening to a story about a dragon.

On the Sunday, the Beavers made posters about the Country Code, to protect the Land of the Dragon, and played Dragon games in Welsh "What's the time, Mr. Dragon?" "Faint o'r gloch ydy hi, Mr. Draig?" and "The Dragon says..." "Y Ddraig yn dweud..."

They went to the Ramoth Chapel, where they received the usual wonderful welcome from Heather, Ros and Bethan and learnt about God's bounty and about Fairtrade.

On the way back they collected firewood for their Barbecue lunch and enjoyed cooking sausages on peeled green sticks. Too soon it was time to go home!

The Beavers are still looking out for an assistant leader, or someone who would be willing to train for the job, to come for a couple of hours most term-time weeks and join the excellent team of willing helpers. No previous Scouting experience is needed.

Why volunteer? You'll learn new skills. You'll make new friends. You'll gain externally recognised qualifications. You'll add to your CV with membership of professional organisations such as the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM). You'll make a difference and give something back to your community and – you'll have a great time!

If you or any-one you know (over 18) would like to join the Beavers, please contact the Beaver Scout Leader, Gill Clay on telephone number 01446 773443.

COMMUNITY NEWS
LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN
Your community correspondents are Sam & Patsie Smith on (01446) 751448

EASTER SERVICES

THE following services will take place at Saint Cadoc's, Llancarfan over Easter:

Maundy Thursday, April 1, Holy Eucharist and stripping of the altars at 7.30pm followed by the Watch of the Passion until midnight.

Good Friday, April 2, Liturgy of the Day at 2.30pm (the church will be open from noon for private prayer).

Holy Saturday, Easter vigil and lighting of the Paschal Candle 8pm.

Easter Day, Sung Eucharist at 11am

CURRY NIGHT

A REMINDER that the Llancarfan Cricket Club is holding a curry night at the Fox and Hounds on Thursday, April 29 starting at 7.30pm.

All are welcome and tickets are available from Sue at the Fox or Rob John on 01446 710376.

Patsie and I wish all our readers a very Happy Easter.

Church funding award welcomed by regional AM

NEWS that St Cadoc's Church in Llancarfan has won an award of £349,500 for repairs and conservation work was welcomed last week by regional AM Andrew RT Davies.

"I am delighted to learn of this award, which will make a significant contribution to the conservation of St Cadoc's Church in Llancarfan," he said.

"The Grade 1 listed church is in urgent need of restoration work and this has clearly been recognised as a worthy cause.

"Conservation is a really important element of our local environment and it is important that we take measures to ensure that historic buildings and monuments are restored for everyone to appreciate."

COMMUNITY NEWS
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL
Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Varsity visit

AS part of Science Week activities at Llangan Primary School, children in years 5 and 6 had an interesting visit to the School of Bio Sciences at Cardiff University, when they were able to participate in various experiments.

During their visit, the children met the Assembly deputy minister for skills, innovation and science and the children were complimented on their questions and behaviour.

Dance evening

ONCE again, children in year 5 and 6 represented Llangan school when they took part in an evening of dance at Barry Memorial Hall.

Schools from all areas of the Vale each performed their own dance: Llangan children danced to 'Me and my shadow' and 'You ain't nothing but a hound dog'. The bright and colourful costumes were made by the teaching staff at the school.

Wind turbine

PLANS have been passed for the erection of a wind turbine which will supply electricity to the school.

Easter celebrations

ST CRALLO's, Coychurch – Maundy Thursday, April 1, Eucharist of the Last Supper at St Crallo's at 7.30pm, to be followed by a watch in the garden of Gethsemane; Good Friday, April 2, 10am service for children with activities and hot cross buns!; 12.30pm-2pm devotion on the Passion; 2pm-3pm Liturgy of the Passion.

Holy Saturday, April 3, St Crallo's spring clean. All welcome.

Easter Sunday – Dawn service at 5.30am at St Mary Hill Church with celebratory breakfast for everyone.

10am – Festival Eucharist with renewal of baptismal vows at St Crallo's, Coychurch.

Easter songs of praise at St Canna's, Llangan at 5.30pm.

Reminder

A SERVICE will be held at Saron Chapel, Treoes on Sunday, April 4 at 3pm. Everyone will be welcome.

Bridge clubs: latest results

THE latest results from the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club (March 15 club night):

1st=, David Wright and John Raymond 65.51 per cent; 1st=, Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner 65.51; 3rd, John Henson and Geoff Tinkler 59.72; 4th, Wendy Williams and Tony Disley 59.03; 5th, Debbie and Simon Richards 58.10; 6th=, Pat and Brian Swain 56.94; 6th=, Margaret Bancroft and Barbara Easterbrook 56.94.

March 22 (club championship round 1): 1st, Debbie and Simon Richards 65.91 per cent; 2nd, John Evans and Terry Reilly 62.20; 3rd=, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams 61.36; 3rd=, Joan Bird and Muriel Maslin 61.36; 5th, Terry Evans and Alan Lewis 58.12; 6th, Sue Summerhayes and Sue Norris 57.74.

Cowbridge & District Bridge Club (March 16):

1st, Joyce Birmingham and Pam Higgs 58.89 per cent; 2nd, Chris and Vince Bennett 56.11; 3rd, Debbie Rosevear and Mearl Owen 53.00; 4th, Pat and Brian Swain 52.78; 5th=, Margaret Bancroft and Amy Owen 51.11; 5th=, Dot Isaac and Myrtle Hansard 51.11.

Tuesday, March 23: 1st, Ann Hughes and Sara Bartlett 60.71 per cent; 2nd, Mearl Owen and Debbie Rosevear 58.33; 2nd, Hugh Williams and Gordon Berrey 58.33; 4th, Pauline McAllen and Marian East 56.35; 5th, Mary Wallace and Myrtle Hansard 52.38; 6th=, Pat and Brian Swain 51.59; 6th=, Ann Miller and Judy Springett 51.59.

BRIAN SWAIN

Squash team secure top spot

THE Cowbridge men's A squash team, who won their final match 5-0, deserve congratulations as they hit top spot in South Wales League East 2.

Under Nick Guard's leadership, this is their third successive promotion and is the highest the team has ever got to; it's only three more steps to the top league in Wales.

Well done to Nick Guard, Jon Bisson, Richard Ford, Garfield Leask and Simon Payne, who all won their games and also to Niall Sloan, who was unavailable last night, and all others who have represented the team this year.

Clive Prigg

(SEE BACK PAGE FOR COWBRIDGE SQUASH MATCH REPORT)

Litter Pick in the park

TRANSITION Cowbridge have organised a Litter Pick to spruce up Poplars Park and the children's playground on Saturday, April 3.

Free refreshments will be provided and runner bean seedlings for all children coming along to help. The event is being supported by Keep Wales Tidy who are supplying long-handled litter pickers and gloves.

Meeting point will be on the bridge in the park at 2pm.

Details from Dinky Kennedy on 01446 775686 or transition-cowbridge@google-mail.com

Second OXJAM for Cowbridge

OXFAM and Cowbridge Fairtrade committee are teaming up to organise the second OXJAM to be held at the Living Cafe (in the old garden centre) on Sunday, April 18.

Making its debut appearance, Cowbridge ladies singing group 'Belladonna', directed by Geoff Howells, will begin the entertainment at 1pm with an exciting performance of music from 18th Century classical to pop.

Several other local acts throughout the afternoon include bands performing jazz, blues, Celtic and world music.

Any local talent/budding musicians who would like to perform at OXJAM should please contact Kavitha in Oxfam or Karen at the Living Cafe.

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Cowbridge churches come together to give Palm Sunday its proper place in the build-up to Easter

TEN foot high palm fronds were carried by some of the 50-plus parishioners, from all the denominations, on Palm Sunday, as they made their way to the Memorial Cross at the Town Hall in Cowbridge.

Others carried green branches while following the two donkeys, Jasper and Polo. The procession re-created the entry of Jesus Christ to Jerusalem, with crowds of people cheering him and throwing their cloaks and green branches in his path. By the end of that week Jesus had been crucified.

Heather Weddell, Minister at UFC, led the prayers and hymn singing which was supported on trumpet and violin by husband and wife team Leonie and Richard Hain.

She said: "We are recreating the beginning of a week that changed everything. A very special person set us an example of how we can live our lives to the full – by putting others first, even to the extent of his being willing to die in order to give us fuller and more effective lives.

"The message is that by using his example as our pattern for living, we can experience more happiness and wholeness than we ever dreamed was possible."

THE PHOTOGRAPHERS

Pictures marked MW are by Mike Wilcock.
Pictures marked RF are by Robert Fisher.

Pendoylan School celebrates launch of its new website

PENDOYLAN Church in Wales Junior School announced the arrival of its new website with a celebration on March 14.

The site designers were Mrs E Norton, Mr D John, both Pendoylan teachers, and consultant Mr M Rees.

Parents were able to explore the site on laptops and the evening concluded with drinks and nibbles, and headteacher Mrs Murray and Father Edwin Counsell cutting a celebratory cake.

Former police chief rapped

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

A South Wales Police spokesman told The GEM: "The Chief Constable's driver was a police constable until December 2008.

"This post was subject to scrutiny and review on several occasions and was changed in 2008 as part of our workforce transformation programme, which put police officers in back-office jobs onto the front-line."

The spokesman added: "This police constable post was redeployed to front-line duties and the vacancy for a civilian staff driver was advertised and subsequently filled. This role remains a civilian staff appointment."

Llantwit Major Chess Club news

THE junior members of Llantwit Major Chess Club played in the Cardiff and Vale Schools individual chess championships on February 14.

We would like to congratulate Taliesin, Llewellyn and Morwenna in particular for the improvement they have made in the past 12 months.

Llantwit Major Chess Club are based at Tabernacle Church, Methodist Lane and meet on a Wednesday evening from 7.15pm.

The club will not be meeting over the Easter break, but re-start on Wednesday, April 14.

If anyone, of any age or ability, is interested in playing chess with us, then they are more than welcome to come along.

For more details please telephone 01446 796208.

DC

New venue for Bridge

COWBRIDGE and District Bridge Club will meet (until at least May 11) in the Lesser Hall, Town Hall, Cowbridge at 7.15pm.

Visitors and new Bridge players are invited to come along and should contact 01446 773596 for further details.

YOU CAN NOW READ YOUR GEM ONLINE. LOG ONTO WWW. COWBRIDGE-TODAY.CO.UK

'Terrifying' attack by dog on horseriders

by TIM CHAPMAN

A BARRY woman has told The GEM of how she and her two children were terrified when a loose dog attacked them while they were out riding their horses in Wenvoe.

During the incident the woman's daughter fell from the horse, was dragged down the lane and had to have hospital treatment for her injuries.

Cheryl Brinn, her daughter Gemma (10) and son Tom (14) were riding into the village of Wenvoe along the lane behind the Walston Castle on March 15 when a dog appeared.

Cheryl said: "We were riding in single file and the dog came trotting along in the middle of the the road. It was a bull terrier wearing a thick, studded collar and a muzzle.

"Despite the muzzle it began to attack Gemma's horse and I screamed at her 'hold on Gemma'.

"The horse twisted and she fell off and was dragged up the road by the reins. She let go and the horse took off."

There were a number of vehicles in the lane, but to Cheryl's disgust nobody tried to help, they simply watched as the events unfolded. "Two men sitting in a white van did absolutely nothing."

The dog then came after Cheryl's horse as she tried to get the horses back to the safety of her in-laws' premises back up the lane.

"I screamed to my husband to open the gate. As the dog continued the attack I thought I would faint.

"Eventually my horse double-kicked the dog across the road, but it still would not give up and had a go at Tom's horse."

The police had been contacted by Cheryl's husband, and order was only restored when a police dog handler arrived on the scene and managed to get the terrier in a police van.

Gemma had to go to hospital for injuries to her hand and foot. She has had to have a support stocking to help her walk.

Cheryl added: "It was a terrifying incident. If the dog had not had a muzzle on it would have ripped the horses' legs to pieces."

The police handed the dog over to the Vale dog warden service and it is now in kennels.

Dog warden Caroline Cowan said: "The dog, an English bull terrier, was collected by our out-of-hours service from Croft Kennels. The dog was microchipped, but to a previous owner.

"The dog is still at kennels because if an owner had come forward there may have been legal proceedings against them.

"As an owner has not come forward the dog is due to be destroyed within the next few days, as it has been deemed not suitable for rehoming."

Local man jailed after court hears...

Social worker was kept prisoner in flat

EXCLUSIVE by AJ SICLUNA

A YOUNG social worker was terrified when a man held him prisoner in his flat for more than an hour, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Shane Goring (36) threatened 20-year-old James Ford with a bottle and refused to let him leave.

Goring of Holton Road, Barry was jailed for two years after pleading guilty to a charge of false imprisonment.

Judge Paul Thomas told Goring "this is on any view a very serious matter.

"Carers like Mr Ford must be protected and that message must go out."

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said that on November 16, Mr Ford went to Goring's flat. He was his carer and was aware that Goring had mental health problems, and drank heavily.

When he arrived, he found Goring unusually drunk and aggressive. At one point, Goring produced a razor and said he wanted to harm himself.

He then locked the front door.

Mr Ford became frightened and said he wanted to leave, but Goring told him: "You are not going anywhere. You are staying here."

Goring then picked up a wine bottle and brandished it over Mr Ford.

Mr Ford then called a colleague Jill Lewis and she heard Goring say: "I'm going to do you, you're not going anywhere."

The police were then called.

Goring kept Mr Ford in the flat for more than an hour.

Fortunately, said Mr Trigg, Mr Ford managed to unlock the door and fled.

Ms Lewis said she had been affected by the ordeal and spoke of the vulnerability and risks carers have to face.

Goring later said he had drunk four litres of wine that day and had "gone off the rails".

He was said to have convictions for threatening to cause damage, being drunk and disorderly, affray, and robbery.

His counsel, Ruth Smith, said: "His motivation was loneliness and he simply didn't want his carer to leave.

"His alcohol problems are long-standing and he's been drinking since the age of 14. Alcohol made him unable to control himself.

"He is adamant he would never have hurt Mr Ford."

She said Goring cannot exist in society without help.

While in custody, she added, he had self-harmed himself.

'Micro chip the Vale's stray dogs' says regional AM

ABOVE: Andrew RT Davies with four-legged friend at the Senedd.

THE Vale Council has had to spend over £125,000 kennelling stray dogs, including over £28,000 in 2008/09, the most recent year for which figures are available.

Regional AM Andrew Davies said: "It is concerning that significant sums are having to be spent on kennelling stray dogs at a time when frontline services are struggling because of consistently poor financial settlements by the Assembly Government.

"It is important that a home is found for stray dogs and they can be cared for in a safe and secure environment. As a dog owner myself, I am disappointed that there seem to be so many stray dogs in the Vale and that some unscrupulous owners are not caring for them as they should. By abandoning dogs, they are not only being cruel to the animal, but costing Vale taxpayers dear.

"Small measures, like micro-chipping dogs, can make a great difference as it means strays can be returned to their owners more quickly if they go missing. The Assembly Government must look at working more closely with local authorities and dog and animal charities to ensure that kennelling costs caused by stray dogs are minimised," Mr Davies added.

Pendoylan celebrates the opening of its refurbished play area

ON Friday March 26 the recently refurbished playground in Pendoylan was officially opened on behalf of Pendoylan Community Council by Jane Williams, senior rural regeneration officer of Creative Rural Communities, which supplied funding for the project.

ABOVE: Jane Williams officially opening the playground.

Coun Gwyn Thomas, chairman of the Community Council, thanked Creative Rural Communities and also the trustees of the Pendoylan & Welsh St Donat's Trust who had provided the requisite 25 per cent match funding.

The project had been masterminded by Coun Susan Wigley with assistance from her commitee and the children of Pendoylan Church in wales Primary School.

The event was also attended by Coun Rob Rees, a trustee of the Pendoylan & Welsh St Donats Trust, Phil Beaman of the Vale Council, children from Pendoylan Church in Wales Primary School and the Rev. Edwin Counsell.

JR

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

THE Ladies Thursday Club ended their winter session with a hot cross bun supper and a quiz by Roger and Dawn.

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 15 at the school.

THE Mothers' Union held their monthly Eucharist at All Saints, Southerndown, on March 26.

This was followed by an interesting talk on Parc Prison, Bridgend.

DESPITE the 40mph speed restriction on the B4265 through the valley at St Brides Major, accidents are still happening, mainly due to the sheep on the common crossing the road and despite warnings to drivers of straying sheep.

Please be aware of this countrywide hazard.

A SPECIAL Easter Sunday service will be held on April 4 at 3pm in Wick Chapel. All welcome.

MAUNDY Thursday (today) sees a Eucharist service of the Last Supper at Ewenny Priory at 7.30pm.

Good Friday service will be held at St Bridget's with reflections in words and music at 2pm; and at 8pm, a service with Taize music will be held at Ewenny Priory.

EASTER services on April 4 – 8.30am Holy Eucharist at All Saints, Southerndown; 9.30am Eucharist at Ewenny Priory; 11am Holy Eucharist at St Bridget's; 6pm Holy Eucharist at All Saints, Southerndown.

THE fortnightly garden waste collection by the Vale Council will recommence in our area on Friday, April 2.

Why go outside?

I was very interested to read about the Women in Wales lunch and the fact that a group of Cowbridge retailers were organising the fashion show.

This will provide an excellent showcase for Cowbridge traders. I do find it strange, however, that a milliner from Abergavenny is providing the hats when Cowbridge has its own first rate milliner, Sarah Keep of Het.

Sarah has been in Cowbridge, in the Wool Barn, for over four years and she has built up an impressive client base, so why the need to go outside Cowbridge?

J Bowden
Llantwit Major

'THE WELSH SWAGMAN'

COWBRIDGE and District Local History Society's next lecture will be on April 9 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall, Town Hall, Cowbridge.

Rita Griffin's subject is: 'Joseph Jenkins – the Welsh Swagman'.

Cheese and wine to follow! All welcome.

Don't forget to re-tune your Freeview TV or box on 31 March

Questions? Call 08456 50 50 50 (English language) or 08458 48 48 48 (Welsh language).

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We will work with volunteers by visiting your home to provide help, advice and practical assistance to enable you to achieve your 10% reduction.

If you are interested and would like to volunteer please contact us in one of the following ways by Friday 16th April 2010:

1. **By leaving your name and address at St Athan pharmacy;**
2. **By telephoning Jan Hudson on 07767 850959;**
3. **By telephoning John Thomas on 07725 828625;**
4. **By email to jwthomas@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**

Please help us achieve our goal!

Get Smart With St Athan

Mother of four jailed for sexual involvement with teenager aged 13

EXCLUSIVE by AJ SICLUNA

A MOTHER of four who became sexually involved with a 13-year-old boy has been jailed for 18 months at Cardiff Crown Court.

Kerry Lee (25) allowed the teenager to become besotted with her, said Judge Keith Thomas.

Lee of Maes-y-felin, Wildmill, Bridgend had been found guilty of four charges of sexual activity with the boy.

Prosecutor, Marian Lewis, said the offences occurred in the Bridgend area during a period of one week.

The judge told Lee that she was well aware the boy had problems and was vulnerable. He was not going to school and had an attention deficit disorder.

"You allowed him to become besotted with you and you encouraged his advances, kissing him passionately and giving him lovebites on his neck.

"You intended having him in your bed and having sexual intercourse with him."

Lee had denied the charges and said the boy had lied.

Defence counsel, Peter Davies, said: "Her capacity as a mother is unquestioned. She is well aware the court regards these offences as serious."

At the time, he said that she was under pressure and acted out of desperation.

Lee, he added, had been abused from the age of seven.

The impact on the victim, said Mr Davies, was not likely to have lasting consequences.

"It was not predatory abuse and she had not been ostracised by her immediate family.

"The impact of the case on her has been profound. She is not a dangerous person."

She was ordered on release to register as a sex offender for 10 years and was disqualified from working with children.

'Sheep carcass' mystery could end in court – council warns

THE Vale Council's trading standards animal health officers are trying to discover the owner of sheep carcasses dumped on the banks of a local river.

Officers have responded to complaints from the public regarding the incident but have so far been hampered by a lack of identification on the animals.

Simon Wilkinson, principal trading standards officer for the council, said: "Officers have found a number of sheep carcasses at Gigman Bridge, near Llantrithyd. The carcasses should be readily identifiable by the ear tags, which are a legal requirement for such things as traceability for disease control.

"In this instance the sheep's ears have been cut off, making it hard for us to progress a criminal investigation. We are appealing to the farming community and the public to provide us with information about who is dumping these animals."

Animal by-products legislation lays down how carcasses must be safely and legally disposed of. By doing so, the risk of spreading disease or unfit meat entering the food chain can be controlled.

Mr Wilkinson continued: "Trading Standards are concerned that the owners of these animals have no regard to the law. They have an unfair advantage over those who do dispose of dead animals properly, they risk damaging the environment and are also increasing the risk of spreading disease. If we are able to identify those involved it is highly likely that the case will end up in the criminal courts."

If you have any information please contact Trading Standards on 01446 709105 or Consumer Direct on 08454 040506.

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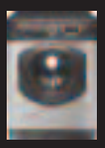

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Coastlands celebrates 30 years for Gurwin and Denny

PASTORS Gurwin and Denny Marshallsea of Coastlands Family Church have faithfully served the town of Barry and the people of the Vale for 30 years - and last Sunday a thanksgiving service was held for them.

Gurwin and Denny have been pastors of the Coastlands Church since 2004.

Having become Christians on the same evening in 1967, they spent 12 years working at a church in Merthyr Tydfil and, following the completion of a theology course, moved to Barry to take up a full-time church ministry in 1980.

The couple led the Elim Church in Barry for 24 years, and have served as pastors of the Coastlands Family Church since 2004.

During their 30 years of church leadership, they have overseen numerous initiatives aimed at demonstrating God's love to people in practical ways. These have included taking a lorry load of aid to Albania where they refurbished a school orphanage, and visiting India to work with local churches.

Closer to home, among many other things, they have overseen an annual initiative, providing gifts and hampers to local families and young people in the Vale, developed the Coast Coffee Shop on the Colcot, which will provide a venue for a range of community-based activities, and freely given their time, love, prayers and practical care wherever it has been needed.

They are well known to many local people, having also been involved in numerous weddings, funerals and baby dedications.

Gurwin said: "The last 30 years have been exciting and challenging, exhilarating and sometimes stressful!

"The highlight is the satisfaction and fulfilment that comes from seeing the church grow and develop and become relevant to the needs of the community around us.

"One of the blessings for Denny and I, has been working with a leadership team in Coastlands that is so supportive. They have encouraged, guided and blessed us. We know the future is bright because God is there!" **SUSAN LLOYD-SELBY**

Heritage Centre wins approval of council committee

"MEN and women of vision built the towns of this great county of ours and provided the reasons for our ancestors to come here. The challenge now is for you to show the vision for the future – for education and history for all."

That was what Dr Jonathan Hicks said on behalf of the Vale Heritage Centre Coalition in his presentation to the Vale scrutiny committee last week.

In an impressively-attended meeting, Dr Hicks and his colleague Mr Adrian Pitman outlined the coalition's vision of a purpose-built heritage centre to act as a central hub for the history and heritage of the Vale. Representatives from all the local history societies across the county then spoke in support of the proposal.

The public gallery was packed with supporters and enthusiastic applause followed the presentation by the two coalition representatives and the expressions of support.

Scrutiny Chairman Coun Chris Williams said, "I don't think there is a person in this room, councillor or member of the public who does not support this idea."

Councillors passed a recommendation to the cabinet that funding now be made available to carry out a feasibility study into the building and running of a heritage centre on Barry Waterfront.

"I am pleased with the outcome," said Dr Hicks after the meeting.

"Members were unanimous in their support and the members of the cabinet who were in attendance indicated their willingness to carry out the feasibility study.

"I hope that they will now sanction this recommendation next month so that work can begin in earnest into the viability of what we propose.

"This would be a wonderful facility for the Vale and a boost to the council's aspiration to increase tourism, as outlined in their corporate plan."

CASH grants for community councils

SIX local community councils will receive CASH grants by the Vale Council as part of the Community Action Self Help (CASH) Scheme

They are: £3,725, Dinas Powys (internal refurbishment works at the Parish and Lee Halls); £1,500, Llanmaes (replacement floor at St Cattwg's Village Hall); £1,300, Llangan (creation of toilet for disabled and store room at St Mary Hill Community Hall); £475, Ewenny (redecoration of toilets, Village Hall); £475, Peterston-super-Ely (lychgate remedial works, St Peter's Churchyard) and £250, Pendoylan (replacement wooden bench for grass verge opposite village school).

Council Leader Coun Gordon Kemp said: "This scheme is an important feature of our efforts to work in partnership with town and community councils and to target resources to all communities within the Vale."

Mobile message to stop bullies

THE Safer Vale Partnership have designed an innovative campaign to raise awareness among young people on bullying.

It was launched by the partnership working with the Communities First Partnerships.

The Safer Vale Partnership will be going into Bryn Hafern Comprehensive School on April 25 during their lunch break and using Bluetooth wireless technology to transmit a message to mobile phones from a small transmitter encouraging youngsters to voice concerns about any bullying.

Coun Paul Church said: "This is the first of its kind using up-to-date technology. This campaign enables young people to receive relevant information quickly and easily."

"We know that a significant number of young people are experiencing bullying.

"We also know that there are others who may not realise that they are being bullied, who need our support.

"We are hoping that by receiving this message young people will speak out about bullying."

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IT'S NO APRIL FOOL'S JOKE...

Illusionist Tom predicts the headline – week in advance!

by TIM CHAPMAN

ABERTHIN mind-reader and illusionist Tom DeVoe is wowing people Down Under with his amazing skills – the latest being to correctly predict the headline in a major Australian newspaper.

Tom (21) is currently in New Zealand and preparing to perform in shows in the capital Welllington, having left people in Australia dumbfounded by how he achieved his latest stunt.

The newspaper prediction was the latest feat in the former Cowbridge Comprehensive School pupil's 'Without Borders World Trip' which started on August 13 last year, and which he hopes will catapult him to stardom.

Tom explained: "I set myself the challenge of correctly predicting the headline of a major Australian newspaper a week in advance.

"I handed the signed and sealed prediction in a box to James Valentine, a presenter with the Sydney Australian Broadcasting Corporation, seven days before the opening – so that it could not be tampered with by anyone.

"I also wanted to prove that no stooges could be involved.

"On the morning of the opening, James announced to his listeners: 'The whole city is on the edge of its seat!'

LEFT: Defying cold logic – Tom with James Valentine of the Sydney Australian Broadcasting Corporation as it is confirmed that his headline prediction has been proved correct.

"He had gathered the major Australian newspapers of that day and called in an independent judge to make sure everything was done legitimately.

"The box was opened by James, and my prediction 'Dosed up on donations' matched, word-perfect, the front-page headline of The Daily Telegraph that morning – 'Dosed up on donations.'

Tom had offered 1,000 Australian dollars to anyone who could prove that he had used any underhand means to achieve the result.

Radio station 702 ABC Sydney was quick to congratuate Tom on its website saying:

"Well done to Tom DeVoe, the afternoon show's 'resident mentalist' for correctly predicting a newspaper headline, one week in advance.

"We're still none the wiser to how he did it, but we're pretty convinced there was no foul play. We think!"

Tom's year-long globetrotting trip started in London on August 13 last year, and so far he has visited India, Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Australia, and now New Zealand.

In Singapore, Tom had astonished a local journalist and photographer from 'The New Paper' with his mind-reading abilities, by correctly guessing which numbers they were thinking of, and confidently predicting which word they would pick out of President Obama's autobiography, *Dreams From My Father*.

Tom correctly chose the word 'goat', not the most common of words.

He has also made his mark in India, reading the minds of callers to Delhi's Fever104FM, a Virgin-owned radio station

Tom uses psychology, suggestion and what he describes tantalisingly as "more devious methods" to baffle his audience.

Later this year, Tom will visit the USA. He plans to return home to the Vale of Glamorgan in August.

Vale constructors received 'highly commended' awards

THE best in construction has been celebrated at an Oscar-style event for rewarding best practice and building excellence across south Wales, hosted by Dr Paul Thomas of the BBC.

The following entries from the Vale were 'highly commended':

Cat 1 – Martyn Jones Builder, for the alterations and extension at the Old Vicarage, Pendoylan; Cat 2 – Centregreat Ltd, for the home conversion category for the Old Grammar School, Cowbridge; Cat 8 in the small commercial category – Vale of Glamorgan Hotel Spa & Resort for the new pavilion at Hensol (with Colin Blick).

Is there a mystery behind the missing cats of the Vale?

A BARRY cat lover, whose own pet has gone missing, is concerned at the number of cats that have disappeared recently.

Mrs Gail Adams of Coldbrook Road East, Barry told The GEM: "On March 19, our tortoise shell cat Lucy, who is 18 months old, went missing.

"We have had her since she was a kitten and was our little baby. She is a mixture of colours – black, ginger and white.

"I have done everything I can think of to get her back. I've spoken to people, put out flyers, and placed an advert in The GEM which sparked six calls – but still there has been no joy.

"I've even been in touch with the RSPCA, the vet, the local cattery and the council. The council said that if she'd been run over, they'd have known who she was because they scan for the chip.

"My next door neighbour's cat has also gone missing, and I've heard of others that have disappeared locally.

"Both my son and daughter live in Rhoose and they say they've seen posters up in the village for missing cats.

"I've got a strange feeling something not very nice might be going on."

Some of Mrs Adams' suspicions are admittedly anecdotal, but she is inviting local people to email her if they have seen Lucy or if their own cat has gone missing so she can get a clearer picture of how many pets have disappeared recently.

She can be emailed at gail.adams70@ntl-world.com. The GEM will be following up on the response that Gail gets from the public.

Watchkeepers call for recruits

THE duty watchkeepers at the National Coast Watch Station, Nells Point, Barry Island, were visited recently by Vale councillor Jeffrey James and with the weather favourable, he was able to view the coastline and Bristol Channel that the station covers.

Station manager Peter Woollacott said: "The duty watch keepers had the opportunity to show Coun James the sophisticated equipment they are responsible for and use in the course of their 'watch'.

"He commended the duty watch keepers on their professionalism and diligence. He felt that they, and the other 50-plus volunteers, perform a valuable service to the public and visitors to Barry Island every day of the year no matter what the weather throws at them."

Coun James talked to duty officers Mrs Jeni Sweet, who was in charge of the watch that day, and a trainee watchkeeper, Stuart Livingstone.

Nell's Point has recently celebrated its third anniversary and was the first to open a NCI station in Wales.

New members of the crew are welcome. Visit the website on www.ncinellspoint.org.uk call in at the station during daylight hours, or telephone 01446 420746 for further information.

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LLANTWIT GIRL'S SUPERDANCE WIN!

KEIRA STANTON (pictured left) from Llantwit Major Youth Club, took first place at the recent Youth Cymru National SuperDance Final, held in Llandrindod Wells on March 6.

Keira competed against other dancers from across Wales in the intermediate solo section.

Rebound Dance Group also competed at this event in the intermediate team with their piece 'Formula' but, unfortunately, were not placed, even though they performed excellently.

Well Done to Keira and the other dancers Morgan Turnball, Erin Eveliegh and Sophie George.

Thanks also goes to the other members of Rebound Dance for attending the event to support their team mates.

EMMA MALLAM

Play area lighting to cost £14,250

PLACING street lights at the new play area in Llantwit Major could set the town council back by £14,520.

This was the figure given to Llantwit Major Town Council by the Vale Council, but a private contractor has also been asked to submit an estimate of the cost.

In the meantime, the Vale Council is to be asked how many lights are needed there. Estimates are being done on the basis that four lights will be required.

The play area, aimed at the 11 plus age group, was provided by the town council using some money from Creative Rural Communities and also its own funding.

Council sets up allotments committee

A NEW allotments sub committee has been formed by Llantwit Major Town Council, which will regularise the way in which the allotments are administered.

One of their first tasks will be to eliminate the present system under which families can have two allotments.

There were also concerns about some tenants failing to cultivate their plots.The committee will hold regular site inspections.

Members will receive an up-to-date plan of the allotment site together with a list of existing tenants and the waiting list of people wanting an allotment.

ARTISTS ASK FOR A HALL

ARTISTS in Llantwit Major are keen to exhibit their work at the Llantonian Hall or some other venue owned by the town council.

The Llantwit Major Arts Group meets each Monday at the Town Hall and members produce a lot of paintings which they would like to exhibit.

The group has asked to display work which would be changed every three months.

A small price tag would be placed on the painting along with a contact telephone number for anyone interested.

This idea is to be considered by the council.

Tabernacle open

FOLLOWING tradition, Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, Methodist Lane, Llantwit Major will be open for prayer and meditation, led by Rev Duncan Ballantyne, between noon and 3pm on Good Friday.

Easter Day services are Holy Communion, at 9am followed by breakfast and Easter Day Celebration Service at 11am both led by Rev Ballantyne. All are welcome at either or both services.

Hats off to pioneering leaders of fashion at Llanilltud-Fawr school!

As the pictures show, the pupils were very proud of their Easter creations.

WHAT a busy time Llanilltud Fawr school council have had recently *a spokesperson reports*!

Firstly they would like to thank everyone who took part in their recent Easter bonnet and Easter egg competition.

The entries were outstanding and everyone enjoyed modelling their hats for the school council and teachers.

Well done to Ellie from year-6 who won the decorate an egg competition, and Louie in year-2, who won the Easter Bonnet competition.

The school council also organised an Easter fair where they sold chocolate eggs, cakes, sweets and ran several games. In total, they raised £120.30 which is fantastic and will go towards a new stage.

On March 25, they also took part in school council workshops run at the school, where school councils from Eagleswell and St Illtyd also had the opportunity to share ideas under the guidance of Glenda Jones .

The school council is now busy organising their next fund raising venture, which is selling new school PE hoodies and getting ready for the next social event, Llanilltud Fawr Families have got Talent, in July.

Miss Bale School Council leader said: "I am so proud of the school council members.

" They are full of ideas and are really making a difference in our school. They also want to say Happy Easter holidays to everyone!"

COFFEE FOR CANCER CARE

THE Mayor and Mayoress of Cowbridge with Llanblethian will be holding their monthly coffee morning in aid of Breast Cancer Care on Saturday, April 3, and invite you to join them in the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall for tea/coffee and cake between 10.30am-1pm.

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OBITUARY: DICK RICHINGS

Former police officer who became a national hero

A FORMER police officer who retired to Porthcawl has died at the age of 96.

But Chief Supt Dick Richings was no ordinary police officer – he was one of a very select band awarded the George Medal for bravery.

He received his award for disarming a gunman in 1960 and he and his wife Wendy and daughter Myra made the trip to Buckingham Palace to collect the award.

The incident took place in the main street of Tonyrefail and involved a man called Kenneth Stallard who was waving a double barrelled shotgun while villagers watched from their upstairs windows.

Richings and three junior colleagues confronted the man who had been arrested twice before and said he would not be taken again.

Richings managed to pounce and grab the gun. Two further weapons were found including a screwdriver and a claw hammer and the man was arrested.

He later smashed up his cell with a radiator pipe and he was finally restrained by three officers and sedated. He was later sent to Broadmoor.

Shortly afterwards, the Richings family were living above Penarth Police Station and were overcome by fumes. His 12-year-old son roused his father at 6am and Mr Richings managed to get downstairs before collapsing from the effects of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Mr Richings was born in 1913 in Cardiff, where his father was a policeman. He joined the Grenadier Guards before becoming a police officer with the old Glamorgan Constabulary.

During the war, he became a military policeman, meeting the King when some dead German soldiers were washed ashore at Battle in Sussex.

He later rejoined the police and served in Aberdare, Llantrisant, Penarth and Neath before ending up as chief superintendent in charge of the Bridgend division.

He retired to Porthcawl and enjoyed gardening, surviving a triple by-pass operation at the age of 84.

His wife died in 1991 and he is survived by his son and daughter. An obituary on Ch Supt Richings was written by his friend Gwyn Petty of Danygraig and was published in the Daily Telegraph.

Mr Petty said that Mr Richings was an outstanding police officer and his medal ranks only just below a Victoria Cross as far as bravery is concerned.

Pupils go paintballing and get to know the police

ELEVEN lucky winners of a competition organised by Newcastle ward PCSO Christian Freeth on the Ourbobby.com website spent the day paintballing at Taskforce Cowbridge for a prize sponsored by Safer Bridgend.

The children, aged between 14 and 15 years, are pupils at Bryntirion Comprehensive School and they won their day out after entering the Ourbobby.com competition and navigating their way through the site, to answer questions about their neighbourhood policing team.

PCSO Freeth said: "It was a great day, which saw the pupils donning camouflage and masks to take part in a variety of challenges set by the staff at Taskforce.

"It was a thoroughly exhilarating day as we faced numerous and varied obstacles, including crawling through muddy tunnels, climbing trees and houses and defending a fortress. We all had to work together to stop the opposition destroying our base and crossing bridges to capture the flag.

"Although it was primarily a fun day for the pupils, it was also an excellent opportunity for them to develop their teamwork and leadership skills; they were able to engage in effective communication – listening and speaking as well as an opportunity for them to get to know their local police."

DOUBLE ACT!

PROLIFIC local actor and musician Ryland Teifi, who is currently appearing in the hit series Caerdydd on S4C, will be appearing alongside the singer, author, bard and TV presenter, also veteran of the Grand Slam series, Dewi Pws at Barry RFC Rugby Club on April 17 at 7.30pm.

The event, organised by Friends of Sant Curig School (PTA) and billed as an evening of laughter and song, promises to be a night to remember.

It starts at 7.30pm and tickets (£7.50) can be obtained from the school on 01446 744222.

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The GEM is in partnership with the Dogs Trust to find good homes for animals in their care at the Bridgend rehoming centre. Tel: 01656 725219. This week:

Bailey in need of TLC

BAILEY is a five-year-old Labrador cross, described by the centre's spokesperson as "a lovely dog with a very nice, sweet nature".

A centre worker said: "He gets on well with other dogs, he is house-trained and fine to be left for a few hours. He loves his walks and having a good run off lead with his pals. He has liver diesease and is on medication and a special diet for this condition. He still has a good quality of life and he loves to live life to the full!

"Dogs Trust will help with veterinary bills relating to his condition."

She added: "He can live with other dogs but isn't suitable to live with cats. He can live with children six-years-old and over. Please don't be put of by his age or medical condition as he has lots of love to give his new owner."

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Communities First is 'safe' in the Vale

COMMUNITIES First projects being run in the Vale are carrying on as normal, despite a decision by the Welsh Assembly Government to halt all major new projects under the programme.

The action of Social Justice Minister Carl Sargeant followed revelations about irregularities at the Plas Madoc Communities First partnership in Wrexham.

There have also been critical reports into the entire flagship anti-poverty programme, because it has been accused of failing to produce the outcomes that had been planned for.

So far, the programme has received £241m over the past eight years to spend in the most deprived communities in Wales.

Mr Sergeant said that he needs to be assured that Community First Partnerships in Wales have robust financial management and governance before he will commit any further substantial funding.

A spokesman for the Vale Council said that there are Communities First Partnerships in two areas of Barry – Castleland and Gibbonsdown and Court.

Their funding has been approved until March 31, 2012.

The schemes in the Vale and Bridgend aim to encourage local people to become more involved in improving the areas in which they live and the prospects of the people who live there.

They focus on community safety; health and well being; education, skills and training; child poverty and the environment.

The areas were identified according to their ranking on an index of multiple deprivation established in 2000 and updated in 2005.

A spokesman for Bridgend County Borough Council, which co-ordinates the schemes in the borough, said that they are run according to the rules and guidelines set down by the Welsh Assembly Government.

There are several Communities First schemes running in Caerau, Betws, Blackmill, Llangeinor, Wildmill, Marlas in Cornelly, Sarn and part of Brackla.

LIVE MUSIC

LIVE music comes to The Savoy, Broad Street, Barry, this Friday (April 2), when The Anderson Connection, Some Kind of Leader, Shoot The Moon and Le Tricks take to the stage.

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Barry Camera Club's 'three on a theme'

THE annual three-on-a-theme competition asks members to submit a 'panel' of three images which together tell a story or illustrate a theme.

Most photographic distinctions, such as the AWPF one held by the judge, Mike Davies, require panels – usually of more than three – in order to qualify, so the event is good practice for those aiming for distinctions.

The fact that there are also prizes of vouchers kindly supplied by Jessops is an added incentive!

Mike commented that the key to working well with panels was ensuring balance – no one image should dominate the panel by being strongly different in tone, colour or size.

Also, panels should always try to keep the eye inside the panel – having elements in the images at each end that pushed the eye back towards the centre.

Before judging the digital entry, Mike presented a series of panels from painting as well as photography – including the famous "triptychs" common in church art, and used these as examples to show members some of the dos and don'ts of panels.

The winners in each category receive £20 in Jessop's vouchers. The rankings were:

PRINT IMAGES

1. In the Vanoise National Park by Kathy Edwards; 2. Fungi by Hugh Winnan; 3. Bowlers by David Hunt

DIGITAL IMAGES

1. Attitude by Noel Taylor; 2. Beasties by Noel Taylor; 3. Kenfig Pond by Steve Durbin

The acceptances for the Welsh Salon, the Welsh Photographic Federation's national competition, were also announced at the meeting. Four members had had images accepted which will now be shown at the Grand Theatre, Swansea over April.

These were – prints: Curtis Fowler LRPS (Approaching Storm) and Kathy Edwards (Pigs Can Fly), digital: John Harvey (Museum Visitors) and Steve Durbin (Graveyard).

Details of future meetings are shown on the club website at *www.barrycameraclub.org.uk* and potential new members are welcome to attend free for two or three meetings, while they make up their minds about joining. **SD**

Three photographs entitled 'Attitude' by Noel Taylor.

Pontyclun woman wins top female business accolade

A PONTYCLUN copywriter who set up her own business straight out of university, has won 'Young Welsh Female Entrepreneur' at the inaugural Welsh 'Women Mean Business' awards.

Ceri Booth

Ceri Booth, director at Pontyclun-based The Creative Booth, fought off tough competition from other young rising stars to win the business accolade.

Ceri, a former beauty queen, was brought up in a loving but low-income family, which made her determined to work hard to improve her prospects of having a fulfilling career.

She set up The Creative Booth, a professional copywriting service, while at university and concentrated on developing it full time after graduating in June 2008.

Ceri set about writing a three-year business plan and as a result, she secured a grant to start the company.

She threw herself into marketing and networking to promote her business and this year, has seen sales grow by 500 per cent. She now regularly works with international clients.

Ceri impressed the judges with her determination and the ability to face the challenges that she faced, in particular the prejudices she encountered owing to her age.

Ceri said: "I'm overwhelmed to have won my category, especially against so many talented and inspiring women.

"Although success stories of young working women are much more commonplace now than they were 10 years ago, all too often women do not fulfil their potential in the business world.

"I hope that my achievements will demonstrate that age doesn't matter when setting up a business, it's ability that counts."

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Gavin and Stacey star backs the Vale's great TV locations

ONE of the stars of Gavin and Stacey was the special guest at a Vale Council tourism conference, held during British Tourism Week, which looked at how being a popular TV filming location is helping attract visitors to the county.

Actress Melanie Walters, who plays Stacey's mum Gwen in the BBC comedy, called into the 'Tourism - What's Occurring' conference at The Bear Hotel in Cowbridge to share her experiences of filming the show around the Vale.

Melanie said: "It was a tremendous location to film. Everyone was extremely helpful and welcoming, and couldn't have been kinder to the cast and crew. The more we get the message across about the many fantastic filming locations that we have in Wales, the better."

Gavin and Stacey was Melanie's first comedy series after a career that has mostly seen her playing more dramatic roles, and it meant a return to the Vale after doing a lot of filming at Ogmore-by-Sea for a programme called 'We are Seven' about twenty years ago.

Doctor Who and Torchwood are among the other recent shows to film scenes in the Vale, but it is Gavin and Stacey that has become synonymous with the county. So much so that visitors are regularly travelling from far afield to Barry Island to see the slots arcade where 'Nessa' worked or to search for 'Dave's Coaches'.

A recent poll on the Vale Council's website found that 98 per cent of local residents think Gavin and Stacey has been positive for the Vale.

The Vale Council's tourism marketing manager Claire Evans, who organised the conference, said: "Gavin and Stacey has given Barry Island and the Vale of Glamorgan as a whole a huge amount of exposure. For example, the stunning footage of Whitmore Bay as the credits rolled in the last ever scene showcased the beach in all its glory to millions of viewers."

The conference was attended by more than 100 local tourism businesses and accommodation operators. They all took the chance to hear a number of tourism-related presentations about how they can reach new markets by making the most of the internet and publicity opportunities.

(From left to right): Coun Geoff Cox (Vale Council cabinet member for visible and building services), Coun Rhodri Traherne (cabinet member for economic development and regeneration), Claire Evans (council tourism marketing manager), Melanie Walters, Mandy Davies (Vale Marketing Group) and Coun Anthony Ernest (council cabinet member for leisure and tourism).

POT HOLES COP-OUT?

I RECENTLY had to have two new wheels on my car, after hitting a succession of pot-holes on the way to Llancarfan.

A compensation claim was duly sent – only to be denied because this particular stretch had been inspected and was "due to be repaired in the following week".

So sorry, no compensation awarded. When is the council going to start paying out for their mistakes? And when is the best time to hit a pot-hole?

Obviously not if the council knows about it and is going to repair it!

James Millard, Cardiff

Aqua Spas hot tubs – offering great products and prices

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The spokesman explained: "From start to finish, Aqua Spas will make sure you get the most from your spa, whether you want a basic design, dazzling light displays surround sound CD, DVD or widescreen LCD, we can make it a reality.

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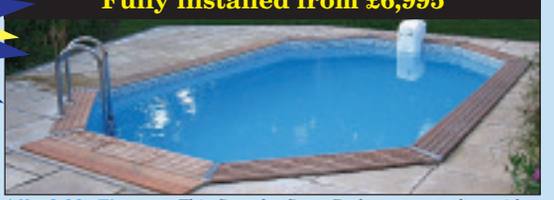

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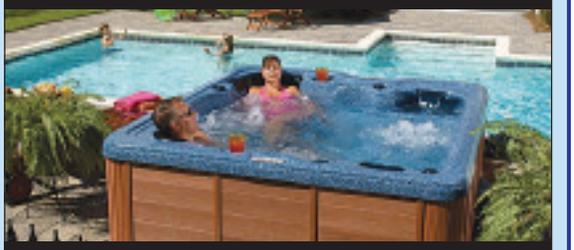

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Racing drivers enjoy good day on the track...

THE fine spring weather that graced round two of Llandow Kart Club's 2010 championship was dampened slightly by a disappointing entry, but the racing in several classes more than made up for the lack of numbers.

Fifty eight drivers hit the track, which proved fast enough to produce three new lap records during the course of the day.

Alex Austin was again the name to watch in the new Bambino class, making his second run of the year and knocking another 1.5secs off his personal best lap.

The Cadet Honda class almost achieved double figures, with a good number of novices enjoying some good racing.

Ari White won all three heats and final to dominate the points, with Yousuf Ashraf taking second place from Daniel Thomas.

There was another clean sweep in Cadet Comer, where Harry Williams, won all four of his races – and took the new award for 'best presented Cadet kart', sponsored by THR Graphics.

A stunning drive from novice Sam Faulkner earned him a deserved second place on his Llandow debut, while Louis Griffith-Walker took third spot.

By contrast, the Cadet WTP class was a lonely place, with just Jack Barber entered, but he mixed competitively with the other Cadets and took several top five finishes on the road.

The Junior Honda grid proved some great racing as triple heat winner Lloyd Sealy just managed to hold off Daniel Jones.

Defending club and Welsh champion Jamie Warren was left to take third place.

A superb series of races enlivened Junior TKM 2-Stroke, with newcomer Jack Love taking two heat wins and Ross Chell the third. Chell then claimed a stirring final, with a new lap record, in only his second TKM outing.

Defending champion Seb Hutchinson completed the podium.

The Junior TKM 4-Stroke wasn't quite so competitive, but still provided an unexpected outcome. Four race wins and a new lap record hinted at Zach Jones' dominance, although his rivals all hit problems during the day.

However, the results counted for little when it was discovered that the winner had forgotten to put a chassis number on his scrutineering card and was promptly disqualified from the final!

Cousin Liam Jones inherited the win, with Andrew Davies moving up to second.

In Junior Max Ryan Wheeler proved up to the task, claiming all four race wins to dominate the day.

Adam Berwick deservedly took second in final, while Dean Clayton claimed third spot.

Macaulay Austin added to his impressive trophy haul by holding off Morgan Rose in tense Mini Max final. Ben Davies, who shared the heat wins with the lead pair, came home a close third.

A disappointing three-kart entry marked a low for the once dominant Senior Honda class, but could not take away from a series of stunning drives by reigning champion Gareth Lewis, who took all four wins and enjoyed a comfortable gap over his pursuers in the final.

Ferdinand Ball eventually claimed second from Paul Saunders after great scrap in the final.

Senior Max once again produced the biggest grid of the day, with a dozen drivers all vying for honours. Three different heat winners - birthday boy Dan Jones, Craig Mooney and Nathan Lawley - set up a fantastic final, but it was Matthew Dowers who came to the fore when it mattered most, battling past Mooney to take a close-fought win.

Jones also overcame Mooney for second, while Chris Davis was only narrowly edged out of third.

Only Wayne Stone was entered for the Max 177 class, but he broke his own lap record twice before the end of the day.

RESULTS

BAMBINO
1. Alex Austin

CADET HONDA
1. Ari White (Project One)
2. Yousuf Ashraf (Project One)
3. Daniel Thomas (Project One)

CADET COMER
1. Harry Williams (Zip)
2. Sam Faulkner (Zip)
3. Louis Griffith-Walker (Zip)

CADET WTP
1. Jack Barber (BRM)

JUNIOR HONDA
1. Lloyd Sealy (MS)
2. Daniel Jones (MS)
3. Jamie Warren (Jade)

JUNIOR TKM 2 STROKE
1. Ross Chell (Tony)
2. Jack Love (Gillard)
3. Sebastian Hutchinson (Intrepid)

JUNIOR TKM 4 STROKE
1. Liam Jones (Jade)
2. Andrew Davies (Jade)
3. Zach Jones (Jade)

JUNIOR ROTAX
1. Ryan Wheeler (Tony)
2. Adam Berwick (Tony)
3. Dean Clayton (Alonso)

MINI MAX
1. Macaulay Austin (Maranello)
2. Morgan Rose (Tony)
3. Ben Davies (Gillard)

SENIOR HONDA
1. Gareth Lewis (7Kart)
2. Ferdinand Ball (MS)
3. Paul Saunders (7Kart)

SENIOR MAX
1. Matthew Dowers (Tony)
2. Dan Jones (Tony)
3. Craig Mooney (CRG)

Best Presented Cadet: Harry Williams
Best Novice: Sam Faulkner (Cadet Comer)
Driver of the Day: Ross Chell (Junior TKM 2-Stroke)

CRAIG LLEWELLYN/ HENRY BEAUDETTE

MORE THAN JUST MONEY

THE GEM recently carried a letter by the Conservative parliamentary candidate for Bridgend (CPCB) entitled 'Low spenders on education'.

There was insufficient information in her letter to validate the argument put forward by the CPCB that more money needs to be invested in Bridgend's education service.

The argument appears to be solely based on 'research carried out by the Welsh Conservative Party' that revealed Bridgend 'has one of the lowest spends in Wales on education per pupil'.

The apparent interpretation of this information by the CPCB is itself significantly flawed in several areas, including comparability, timeliness, and the lack of any assessment of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Because an authority has a comparatively low spend does not mean it is inefficient or ineffective, and neither does it mean that it would necessarily benefit from an injection of more cash.

Any service and function will have several dimensions of performance which an authority will seek to maximise and rationalise across competing demands on resources, including financial ones.

Information should be fully understood before assumptions or conclusions are drawn.

The notion that a person should be able to properly use a piece of information without understanding is wrong.

Chris Howell
Coychurch

Vale families see carers qualify at Barry College

THE latest round of local people who work in the care profession that Barry College has helped to meet legal requirements have received their qualifications..

The learners will join a growing force of more than 500 care professionals that Barry College has assisted gain an essential qualification in the last ten years.

Working in collaboration with the Care industry, the college has developed NVQ courses in care that meet the statutory requirements required for registration with the Care Council for Wales.

The learners, who were joined by their families and managers at the graduation, are the latest group of local carers to have gained their new qualifications at Barry College.

The college enrols between 60 and 80 learners on NVQ Care courses each year with a 98 per cent success rate. Since the Care Standards Act 2000 it has become a legal requirement for anyone working in Care to have an NVQ qualification.

For more information about Care courses, contact Barry College Student Services on 01446 725000.

Ladies in round robin contest

WITH the end of the season fast approaching and fixtures needing to be played, last Sunday saw a round robin format between Cowbridge, Whitland and Amman United.

Thankfully, a lapse in the rain gave way to a sunny afternoon of rugby in Cowbridge, which was enjoyed by all three teams and spectators.

Whitland faced Amman United in the opening game, resulting in a win for Whitland 29-5.

Next up was the home team to take on Whitland. A game Cowbridge were looking to forward to, to gain revenge for a narrow defeat at Whitland away, and the girls certainly did not disappoint for the first quarter as they tore into the Whitland defence and made some telling breaks.

Unfortunately, Cowbridge were unable to capitalise on their possession and little mistakes cost them vital points. Whitland's two tries came from sloppy Cowbridge errors and took the lead just before half-time.

The second half saw a gritty performance from the Cowbridge 15, especially hooker Lowri Reeves, whose barn-storming runs and tackles inspired the 14 around her.

Further good displays from Alexis Walker, Delyth Powell and Charlie Willis encouraged the home side onwards, but a lack of concentration when camped on Whitland's line cost them dearly.

Cowbridge point scorers were Jo Clarke and Alexis Walker. Final score: 12-10 to Whitland.

The final contest of the day was between a rested Amman United and the home team. Fatigue should have showed after a determined performance against Whitland, but not this Cowbridge 15. Superb running from Anna Jenkins, Katie O'Neill and Jo Clarke enabled the team to make breaks resulting in well-deserved points on the board.

Inspirational play and skill from captain Rebecca Porter-Strong saw Cowbridge rewarded for their hard efforts on the pitch, with the home side winning 26-10.

Jo Clarke, Alexis Walker, Anna Jenkins and Mandy Parrish scored tries. Conversions were made by Anna Jenkins.

The progression and development of the forwards showed in the scrums, while the ever-nippy backs didn't fail to entertain.

Cowbridge next play Waunarlwydd away on April 11, 2.30pm kick-off.

HL

Boverton Road regeneration

ALL the information required for a new bid for funding for the Boverton Road regeneration scheme has to be submitted to Creative Rural Communities by April 22.

A panel will then decide whether or not to fund the scheme at the end of the month,

The bid submitted must include a detailed design brief and full costings. It is being compiled by an officer from the Vale Council.

Individual landowners have to be contacted and give their responses by this time.

FINGERS ON THE BUZZERS...

Pendoylan are road safety champs again!

The 2010 Road Safety Quiz champions from Pendoylan C/W Primary School – Olivia, Eva, Ffion and Abi.

PUPILS from Pendoylan Church in Wales Primary School have won the Vale Council's Road Safety Quiz for the second time in four years.

The team followed up their 2007 success with a win over previous champions Romilly Primary School in the final at the YMCA Hub in Barry.

"The annual event aims to make pupils more safety-conscious and aware of their responsibilities as pedestrians, cyclists and vehicle passengers, in an attempt to reduce child casualties in the area and Wales in general," a council spokeswoman explained.

"Both teams were given buzzers to answer questions, either individually or as a team, based on the pupils' knowledge of the Young Person's Highway Code."

Watched excitedly by fellow pupils, parents, teachers and road safety officers, the team of four Year-6 pupils from Pendoylan held off a concerted effort from Romilly's finest in a keenly-fought, nerve-wracking and very competitive final, to take the crown, she reported.

Road safety officer John Rogers, commented: "A big thank you must go to all the schools who took part in this worthwhile exercise and well done to all the teams.

"A special mention must also go to Oakfield Primary School in Barry for their fantastic group work in answering questions and their performance. Their sheer team effort alone deserves much credit."

The event for ten and 11 year-olds attracted entries from 37 Vale primary schools this year. Both finalist teams received gift vouchers and a commemorative plaque each. As winners, Pendoylan also received £200 for their school and a glass trophy. Runners-up Romilly received £100.

Road safety officer and quizmaster, John Rogers, with Clare Cameron, principal transport and road safety officers, with the finalists from Romilly (middle row) and Pendoylan (front) with their trophy.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Pick up marketing tips at Vale Women's Business Network

Vale Women's Business Network

Sell Sell Sell!

Find out how to sell your company effectively!

Wednesday, 21st April 2010

at The Copthorne Hotel, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff, 6.30-9pm.

Guests and non-members are most welcome!
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Please e-mail members@vwbn.org.uk to book

www.vwbn.org.uk

THIS month, the VWBN revisits the Copthorne Hotel for a practical event (see advertisement left).

Our guest speaker is Jane Croad, senior lecturer and programme director of marketing at the Cardiff School of Management.

A fantastic opportunity to find out how to sell your company effectively and discover what makes a good advertisement (what information to include, how to present it, how to organise advertising and get the best rates). Please bring your marketing and advertising ideas along, and get feedback from your peers on how to improve your communication literature and get the 'wow' factor!

Please email *members@vwbn.org.uk* for more information and to book. Guests and new members are very welcome. (Guest fee for the evening is £5).

For more information about the benefits of networking and joining the VWBN, please visit www.vwbn.co.uk

Looking to advertise in more than 43,000 newspapers from Penarth to Porthcawl? Call The GEM now on 01446 774484 or email gemsales@internet-today.co.uk

Willobank Produce – free range eggs for the Vale

WHAT started out as a hobby has turned into a business venture for a local part-time farm labourer, despite the recession.

Willobank Produce has grown from just a few hens to more than 600 birds in little over two years, producing free range eggs for local shops , milkmen and doorstep deliveries.

Tony Williams, with the help of family and friends, has built up the business at Biglis Farm, Barry, and is looking to expand the doorstep delivery service.

With 'food miles' an important consideration in today's shopping, what better than to buy as locally as possible?

Contact Tony to arrange a delivery. The shops Willowbank supplies include: Vic Hopkins, Barry, VFM, Barry, Valley View, Dinas Powys, Village Stores, Dinas Powys, Fresh Value, St. Athan, William Hanks, Llantwit, and The Delicatessen, Pontyclun.

Grow your own produce with Riverford organic

ASPIRING gardeners can now grow their own vegetables, herbs and flowers as Riverford becomes the first ever veg delivery service to offer organic seedlings to its customers.

The new 'box to grow' range offers everyone from windowbox enthusiasts to allotment owners the chance to reap the benefits of homegrown food and flowers. High quality organic seedlings come with detailed growing guides to help a gardening novice through the process.

Smaller boxes will suit those with limited space, hoping for a slice of the Good Life.

There are three 'boxes to grow' to choose from, including a small, medium or large vegetable box, a herb box and a flower box. All seedlings have been grown to organic standards from organic or untreated seeds.

Chris Moruzzi, who delivers Riverford veg-boxes in mid/south and west Glamorgan, comments: "We hope everyone who buys our seedlings catches the gardening bug. The 'Good Life' isn't always easy, but eating something you have grown yourself is hugely rewarding.

"Half of our customers already grown their own veg and appreciate the benefits of fresh produce, and use our weekly boxes to supplement what they can't produce themselves."

Prices start from £14.95 for a small veg or herb box to £18.85 for flowers an £27.95 for a large veg box. Available to customers in London, the south east and south west.

Call 0845 600 2311 to order or contact franchisee name.

RTL Solicitors – advice when most needed

FAMILY and matrimonial problems are stressful, the consequence of which can cause fundamental change to people's lives.

In these difficult circumstances, you need support and advice to protect you, your children and your assets.

RTL Solicitors offer value for money professional advice on all family matters, including divorce, co-habitation disputes, pre-nuptial agreements, private children law matters, child support agency, adoption, financial issues, domestic violence and change of name.

Contact Sarah Jones at Bridgend-Cardiff based RTL Solicitors, telephone 01656 665850.

Anita's Theatre School develops your child's talent

ANITA'S Theatre School, now in its eighth year, is one of the most prestigious schools in the Vale of Glamorgan today.

It provides children aged from four-17years with the chance to develop their talents and confidence in the three disciplines: dancing, singing, and drama – with a presentation performance at the end of each term.

All disciplines are taught by very experienced teachers with a string of credits to their names.

It's hoped that the school will gain more recognition for the hard work that it does in promoting the arts among children in Barry and the Vale.

Our aim is to give students confidence in everyday life, not just for the stage, but to also have fun while learning, in a relaxed environment.

This August, for a week summer workshop, open to all, we will be doing *Mary Poppins* – learning the script, dances, and songs, crafts, and giving a performance at the end.

Town council seeks helping hand for clock repair project

THE Llantwit Major Town Council has agreed to fund work to repair the town hall clock.

It has not been chiming because of a problem involving the striker, the buildings and recreation committee, which takes care of the council's properties, has been given authority to bring in contractors.

Scaffolding will be erected around the clock tower while work is under way.

However, if the bell is found to be cracked, there will need to be further discussions, as it would probably be necessary to replace it, at extra expense.

The committee is also looking at what work is needed on the council's two listed buildings – the Town Hall and the Old School.

They are still getting estimates in for work already identified by a full survey, and they are now seeking funding from Cadw and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Rotarians will fund town's defibrillator box

ROTARIANS have agreed to pay for a special 'climate control' box to be installed in Llantwit Major.

This will house the defibrillator, which was purchased with money raised by the Mayor, Coun Molly Lane, during her year of office.

The money was donated to the local branch of the British Heart Foundation and Dr Bob Bevington, chairman of the branch, has revealed that the box will be located outside optician Chris Williams' premises.

Coun Dave Lane told The GEM that he and Molly were delighted that the equipment would now be available to First Responders and other trained to use it.

"It will be accessible to people who know the key code so that they can quickly respond to someone having a heart attack," he said.

"We were also hoping that some staff in Somerfield would be trained to use it, but with all the changes brought about by them merging with the Co-op, I am not sure if the scheme has been progressed."

He added that they were very grateful to the Rotary Club for paying for the box.

'Stuttgart trip was justified'

I READ with astonishment the recent letter by Dr David Ellis on Mr Alun Cairns' trip to Stuttgart regarding the Bosch closure.

Firstly, Mr Cairns is an Assembly Member and I see nothing wrong in representing the Assembly, irrespective of what constituency he represents.

Surely, the end factor was to try to rescue something from this closure and help the Bosch workforce?

Secondly, did Mr Cairns use his Assembly expenses? I have no idea, but perhaps he is entitled to.

There were also other cross party Assembly members on the same trip to Stuttgart. I wonder if they used Assembly expenses?

I think it is wholly unfair to single out one person and not look at the whole picture.

Thirdly, Mr Cairns does work very hard, as I know from experience, and manages to see to his Assembly duties in his constituency and in the Senedd.

As for Assembly matters in the Vale, perhaps he gets involved because he has been asked by a resident for help in some matter or other.

As for his campaign as prospective parliamentary Conservative candidate for the Vale, a lot of this work is done in the evenings and at weekends.

DR Mason,
Rhoose

EMAIL US!

● *WE welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at:* ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***

FAMILIES SPEAK OF LOSS

Moving tributes following East Aberthaw collision

THE families of Talfryn Jones and Julie Ann Bate, who died in a road collision in East Aberthaw on Sunday evening, have paid moving tributes to them.

The family of Talfryn Jones (68) of Cei Dafydd, Barry, said he was a complete family man.

They said: "This is a very sad time for our family. Our father Talfryn was a very loving husband, father and grandfather. He doted on us and gave us everything we wanted and needed.

"He was a family man who loved his sport and played amateur football while working for Western Welsh Bus Services. He was a social man and was always the life and soul of any party.

"He travelled to various European destinations with mam and his friends.

"After moving to Ynyshir from Penrhys, he settled back with his family and old friends.

"Losing mam in 2005 seemed to be the end of his world, but he later fulfilled her wishes by retiring to a residential caravan park on the coast. He will be deeply missed by us and his many friends".

Talfryn Jones – "A very loving husband, father and grandfather."

Julie Ann Bate – "A bubbly and happy person...She lived life to the full."

The parents of Julie Ann Bate (37), who was from Rhoose, said Julie would be remembered as a bubbly and happy person.

They said: "She loved life and certainly lived life to the full.

"She was a wonderful and caring daughter, sister and friend.

"She was always the life and soul of the party and everybody she met loved her personality.

"Her interests included playing pool and watching rugby with her friends in her local pub, The Mayflower. She also cared for her dog, Patch, who she dearly loved.

"Julie enjoyed charity work including sponsored abseils, walks and mountain climbs."

Julie was originally from Newport and moved to Rhoose several years ago.

Anyone with information about the collision, which occurred at 10.50pm, on Sunday is asked to contact the Police roads policing unit at Gwaelod y Garth, Cardiff, on 02920 571600 (ext: 42333).

'The free post-16 transport needs to be guaranteed'

READERS will be well aware of the Vale Council's plan to continue post-16 school transport, against their officers' advice.

The opposition was cross-party and I am sure was a significant influence.

It is relevant, however, to advise readers that the origins of this issue relate back to the new law on school transport drafted some 18 months ago. I had the privilege of leading on this for my party in the Assembly.

At the time, I warned of the risk of the withdrawal of school transport, unless a specific obligation was written into the law.

As a result, I tabled specific amendments that would have guaranteed the transport for Post-16 pupils, as well as the funding for delivery to all local authorities in Wales.

Indeed, I worked closely with the Catholic and Anglican churches, who supported my stance, as well as with Welsh language groups.

We were all disappointed, however, that Labour and Plaid AM's specifically rejected the amendments to the legislation, citing cost and their opposition to faith-based schools as their reasons.

In fact, one north Wales Labour member was disciplined by her party for supporting my view!

Of course, the local AM's current standpoint is welcomed, but action 18 months ago would have prevented the threat to the service.

Therefore, I hope readers will ask why Labour and Plaid members voted against an obligation at a Wales level, only to campaign in favour of it locally.

Should anyone wish to see the voting record and their contributions to the debate and legislation, then I would be more than happy to pass on the verbatim record.

I therefore hope that such Assembly Members will support my requests to amend the legislation as I originally attempted.

Without their support in the Assembly on this issue, we could well have similar threats at some stage in the future.

Alun Cairns
(Conservative parliamentary candidate for the Vale)

Flower demo raises £1,000 for new breast care unit at hospital

HILARY WEST, a member of the Soroptimist International Barry and District Club, recently gave an inspirational floral demonstration in the Old School Hall, Sully.

Hilary gave not only her services, but also donated all her stunning arrangements as raffle prizes and altogether the event raised £1,000.

This will be donated to the new breast care unit at Llandough Hospital. At this £1.5m purpose built centre, which opens later this year, Breast Cancer patients will receive all their treatment under one roof.

A £1m fundraising appeal is being launched to bring the latest generation technology to south Wales, including a £500,000 3-D mammogram machine.

However, money is also needed to make the environment as comfortable as possible for patients.

It is also hoped to provide a play area for young mothers with their children, as some patients will be there for a long time when tests are involved.

President Iris Hopkins of Dinas Powys referred to the fact that four of the club's members had had treatment for breast cancer and she was delighted to donate the money raised to this new unit.

CSD

ABOVE:
President Iris, Hilary West and club member Ann James, who gave the vote of thanks to Hilary

We welcome your news items. Please email them to: ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***

Ysgol Bro Morgannwg open evening shows pupils' talent to the full

YSGOL Gyfun Bro Morgannwg held a very successful open evening recently.

There were more than 300 visitors, who enjoyed displays and activities that are on offer to pupils in the Welsh medium comprehensive school.

TOP PICTURE: There were demonstrations by the school's gymnasts.

ABOVE RIGHT: Some pupils showed off their baking skills!

ABOVE: Getting a static electric shock can be fun!

It's Easter eggstravaganza time at Dyffryn Gardens!

BOUNCY castles, face painting and story telling will be just some of the family activities at Dyffryn Gardens over Easter weekend (April 4-5).

The Vale Council-owned 55-acre, grade 1 registered Edwardian garden is being restored to its former glory with assistance from the Heritage Lottery Fund. It has more than 30 themed areas, as well as an arboretum containing several champion trees, the biggest or largest in the UK.

Coun Anthony Ernest, Vale cabinet member for leisure and tourism, commented: "We are hoping people will come and make the most of our Easter weekend activities – there really is something for all the family.

"If bouncy castles and face painting isn't your thing, then why not visit the tea rooms and gift shop.

"We would love people to take a stroll around the gardens and view the restoration work undertaken during the past 12 months.

"The Easter weekend kicks off a whole host of events over the summer, including open air theatre, a Bonsai show, a family fun weekend and a series of wildlife events such as the 'Great Crested Newt' night on April 21."

Admission fees into the gardens are £6.50 for adults, £4.50 concessions, £2.50 children and £17 for a family pass (two adults and up to four children) through until October.

For more information, visit www.dyffryngardens.com

LLANTWIT town news in brief

PLANNING enforcement officers from the Vale Council have been out to inspect a new shopfront installed at premises next to the old Pickwick Papers shop in the old part of Llantwit which is a conservation area.

The town council raised the issue and will be notified of any further action which may be taken.

• THE work to repair the clock at Llantwit Major Town Hall will cost £2,890 plus VAT, councillors were told. It will also cost £350 to hire scaffolding for four weeks while repair work is under way.

• THE Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions are holding a Fair Day on land adjoining Llantwit Major rugby club on June 19, from 10am to 4pm.

• A SAMPLE leaflet of a Blue Plaque trail around the most important buildings in Llantwit Major is to be produced, along with costings, and then considered by the town council, which will decide whether or not to proceed.

• THE town study steering group would like a colour guide book for visitors to find their way around the trail.

• A finger post is to be placed by the library in Llantwit Major, directing people to the Llantonian Hall, tennis courts, bowling green and rugby club.

The town council is to seek consent for the placing of the finger post and then apply for a grant to fund it.

IAN HUNT, who owns The Precinct, is to be asked by the town study group for consent for an extra finger to be placed on the existing finger post at this location ,which would point towards Llantwit's twin town of Le Pouliguen in France. The distance would also be included.

• LLANTWIT MAJOR Town Study Group is to back the town council's attempts to get an extra CCTV camera installed in the town at the Square. This was decided in the wake of a recent incident when people were arrested for fighting.

• AN electronic kiosk which would give visitors tourist information may be located in Llantwit, the town study steering group was told. Funding would come via Creative Rural Communities. A suggested location is St Illtyd's Church, although traders would like it to be more central.

• MEMBERSHIP of the Footpath Forum is to be looked at when the Town Council holds its annual meeting in May, as three of the last four meetings have had to be informal, as insufficient councillors had attended.

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IN BRIEF

Celebrating the Easter story

EASTER time services at the churches of St Paul's and Merthyr Dyfan will be led by the Rector, Father Robert Parish.

Today, Maundy Thursday (April 1) at 7pm at St Paul's, commemorates the Last Supper on the night before Jesus's crucifixion.

On Good Friday, the story of the Passion of Christ is told at Merthyr Dyfan church at 10am, and at St Paul's at 12noon.

Holy Saturday (April 3), 8pm at St Paul's sees the first Mass of Easter when the church is filled with light to celebrate the coming of Easter Day.

Services of Easter Sunday are at 8.45am in Merthyr Dyfan church and 10am in St Paul's.

Wine meeting

VALE of Glamorgan Wine Circle meets on April 6 at the Llantwit Major leisure centre at 8pm with an Easter social quiz and a prize to the person with the best decorated Easter bonnet.

This evening is open to visitors and members; all are very welcome.

Flower arrangers

COR Meibion y Machlud will be performing at Llanblethian Church with guest organist Geoff Howells, on Friday, April 9, at 7pm.

For information and tickets, telephone Nick on 01446 772843.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG DEDDF CYNLLUNIO (ADEILADAU RHESTREDIG AC ARDALOEDD CADWRAETH) 1990

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995
GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF (TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest
Ceisiadau a allai fod o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol i'r Cyhoedd

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2010/00240/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Erection of new industrial building and installation of 9MW wood fuelled renewable energy plant
Location:/Lleoliad: Land off Woodham Road, Barry

Departure from the Provision of the Development Plan
Ceisiadau nad ydynt yn cydymffurfio â Darpariaeth y Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2010/00124/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: 3 Seasonal chalets (10 months, 1st March to 31st December)
Location:/Lleoliad: Plots 9A, 10A and 11A, Marconi Holiday Village, Fort Road, Penarth

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk
Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar-lein y cyngor drwy fynd i vog.planning-register.co.uk

Dated: 1 April, 2010
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 1 Ebrill, 2010
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
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TRANQUIL COWBRIDGE:
A PLACE TO WANDER, SHOP, AND JUST WATCH THE WORLD GO BY..!

COWBRIDGE is one of those towns that looks its best in springtime.

With the flowers starting to bloom, the ducks on the river and the gentle sunlight bathing everything in a warm glow (hopefully!) the town provides a very attractive setting for all those who want to lift their spirits by a day out.

With its choice of shops, cafés and hotels, the town is an ideal place to lose yourself, whether it's wandering down the little alleys to discover the shops they contain, walking along the high street to visit the larger shops there, or just enjoying a coffee and watching the world go by.

Cowbridge is also a great place to update your wardrobe for spring and summer. It has a range of shops to suit all pockets – from those selling designer labels down to others catering for people with more modest means – who still demand some style and panache.

When you buy something in Cowbridge, you know that you will not see it on hundreds of other people, as is the case if you buy chain store clothes.

The small boutiques carefully select their stock to give customers a chance to get something distinctive, even if not exactly a one-off; and the owners get to know their regular customers well and can cater for their tastes and quirks.

All the new spring fashions in their bright colours are already in the shops and even window shopping can lift the spirits. There are also fabulous handbags and shoes available to accessorise any ensemble – plus stunning jewellery of both the real and costume varieties! Also, if you want to give your house a lift for spring, Cowbridge has lovely little shops that sell fabulous ornaments, cushions, knick knacks, mirrors and paintings – plus some antiques many of which are more than affordable and give your home that *je ne sais quoi!*

The fresh flowers and plants also on sale at a number of shops make one feel that spring has finally arrived and the daffodils at this time of year, as Wordsworth noted, are something that can thrill – even if they are not planted alongside lakes!

So, whatever the depth of your purse, you can find what you need in Cowbridge – with its range of fresh food shops, a fabulous ironmongers, a well stocked book shop, a proper stationers, plus lovely little gift and craft shops. **JI**

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Charity ball gives the mother and daughter team a great send-off!

A Cowbridge mother and daughter have been given a great send-off by well wishers as they plan to tackle this year's London Marathon.

Marianne and Louise England organised a charity ball in Cowbridge in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care on Friday, March 26, at the Bear Hotel.

The mother and daughter team started running last May, and the first target was to complete the Cardiff Half Marathon last October.

However, Marianne and Louise decided to push on and tackle the London Marathon on April 25, to raise money for Marie Curie.

Marianne explained: "I lost my sister, Catherine Chick, five years ago to pancreatic cancer at the young age of 43. She had wonderful care from Marie Curie, and I wanted to thank them for that."

The two runners had to raise £2,000 each to take their place in the London Marathon, but the ball was such a success that they have raised almost double that figure, with a total of £7,650 for Marie Curie!

After successfully completing last year's half-marathon, the pair have been coping well with the training needed to prepare for the full 26 miles (and 385 yards).

The only hitch has been a foot injury suffered by Marianne, who had to transfer her stamina training to an exercise bike to give the injury a chance to heal.

Louise said: "We would like to thank all the local businesses for their support by donating raffle and auction prizes, and also to everybody who attended the ball."

She continued: "We would also like to thank Julian Hitchcock and his team at the Bear Hotel for helping to make it such a lovely evening.

"Finally, special thanks must go to Jayne James from the BBC, who hosted the event, and Phil Thomas, the auctioneer."

It is still possible to support Marianne and Louise, and the just giving page address is: *http://www.justgiving.com/marianneand-louiseengland*

Marianne added: "We have been overwhelmed by the support we have received which will definitely help give us the determination needed to run the London Marathon."

ABOVE: Mother and daughter marathon runners Louise and Marianne England, pictured at the charity ball.

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The new and expanded Cowbridge Antiques and Interiors Centre at the old Garden Centre, Cowbridge, offers a wide choice of period antiques, combined with Shabby Chic.
An ever increasingly popular sector is vintage household items including china, linens and painted pine (also a pine stripping service). Items in stock include a 12ft 'wakes table', a rare Victorian walnut corner bookcase, five longcase clocks, to a very large "Queen Elizabeth Rose" pattern Wemys pig.

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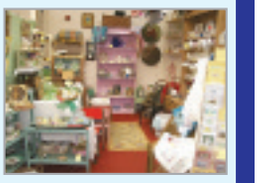

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Cowbridge fashion show is set to take centre stage at the Women in Wales lunch

COWBRIDGE retailers have a long and proud reputation for helping deserving causes, and next month sees that tradition being maintained.

A group of businesswomen in the town are organising the fashion show for this year's Women in Wales lunch in aid of Save the Children, which is being held on April 30.

Awen Evans, co-owner of Cowbridge's High Society bridal boutique, told The GEM: "We are all looking forward very much to taking part in the lunch and will be exhibiting a range of the latest spring and summer designs, which will include bridal wear, casual, formal and evening wear."

Tickets are available for the Women in Wales Lunch priced at £50 each or £500 per table from Awen Evans at High Society, on 01446 771775; or Sue from Lois Boutique, on 01446 772471.

Alternatively, contact Sharon Donald at Save the Children, on 02920 345 224.

ABOVE:
From left: At the back, fashion model Juliet, Lynne from Ushi's, Arwen Evans from Havana and Sue Marshall of Lois Boutique.
PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK

You can now read all about the various events in Cowbridge and the surrounding areas in The GEM's online edition: ***WWW. COWBRIDGE-TODAY.CO.UK***

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Post card entries please stating: Correct answer, name, address, telephone number and e-mail address (if applicable) to:

Scallywags Competition, 2 Willow Walk, (Town Hall Car Park) Cowbridge.

The winners will be announced on The GEM **What's on Page, Thursday 6th May.**
(The judges decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.)

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'PEOPLE ARE PROUD OF THE TOWN AND IT'S TRADITIONS'– SAYS COWBRIDGE MAYOR

AS he nears the end of his year in office, the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Jon Harris, told The GEM that the town has made significant progress over the last 12 months.

Coun Harris, who is in his second stint as mayor – he first served in 1997 – pointed out that work on the new secondary school will finish as early as this September, that the scheme at The Limes cemetery had been completed successfully, and that the grammar school development was "finished and attractive".

He said: "I was delighted to be present at the school's 'topping out' last autumn – and throughout the year, I have attended a number of events in all the schools in Cowbridge."

One council initiative that Coun Harris is particularly enthusiastic about is the 'school citizen of the year' award which rewards a deserving local pupil.

The role of mayor entails on average three to four engagements a week, many local, but some further afield in south Wales representing the town, and Coun Harris credits his wife Vi as "a wonderful support" during his year in office.

He told The GEM: "As we speak, she is judging a bonnet competition at an old people's dinner in the town hall!"

Coun Harris, an engineer by training, moved to Llanblethian in 1971 when he took on the position of area sales manager with W & T Avery, a leading supplier of weighing equipment.

He has served 18 years on the council and speaks warmly of the town's traditions.

"Cowbridge maintains a good council which is non-political, and has a tradition of dressing up for the big occasions such as Civic Sunday and Remembrance Sunday, which are very, very well attended.

"People are rightly proud of the town. It has so many activities, societies and clubs – and there are so many things people can get involved in."

Coun Harris praised the contribution of the local business community which continues to provide high class events, such as The Food and Drink Festival, The Reindeer Parade and the recent autumn fashion show.

"During the Reindeer Parade, there were people who had come from as far away as west Wales and the south west of England."

Coun Harris thinks that traders in the town have shown a particular resilience during the recession.

"Cowbridge has stood up very well in difficult times. There are few empty premises, and if one is available, it is quickly filled.

"We would love to have the garden centre site occupied, though.'

One of the highlights of the year for Coun Harris and his wife was the concert held at the leisure centre in support of Breast Cancer Care, the couple's chosen charity for the year.

"Vi has had breast cancer, and we chose the charity because it helps people dealing with the emotional side of things by providing information.

ABOVE:
The Mayor, Coun Jon Harris, his wife Vi the Mayoress, with grandsons Sam (left) and Oliver in the civic parade.
(See another picture on facing page)

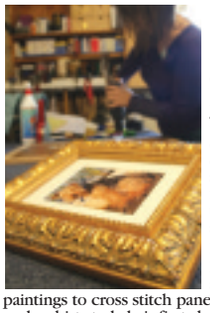
"We put on a concert with the Dowlais Male Voice Choir and artists from the Welsh National Opera. It was the first time we had attempted anything like this, and it was a superb evening."

The mayor's charity ball, which includes a meal, raffle and the presentation of a cheque to Breast Cancer Care, takes place at the Bear Hotel on April 23. *For further information on the event, Coun Harris can be contacted on 01446 773798.*

Coun Len Taylor will succeed Coun Harris as mayor on May 18.

A closer look at THE OLD WOOL BARN...

~ bespoke picture framing ~



Upstairs at the Old Wool Barn you will find the excellent Framing Workshop where Juliet will guide you through the extensive range of contemporary and traditional frames available to complement and complete any picture.

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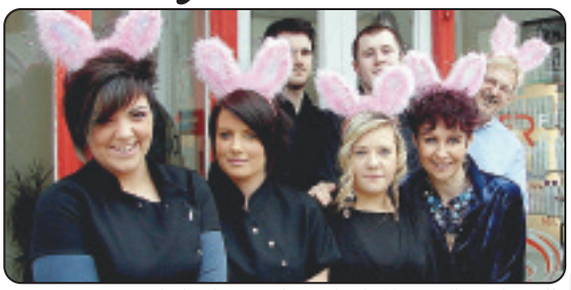
Local hairdressing salon gets behind the Ty Hafan walk



Hoping to stay awake for the Ty Hafan Midnight Sleep Walk are the staff from Fich and Ramous. Left to right, front: Rhi Jenkins, Zoe Diment, Sinead Moloney, Clair Collins. Back: John Knight, Gethin Cattle and Lance Pryor-Collins.

A TEAM from Cowbridge hairdressing salon, Fich and Ramous, is taking part in the Ty Hafan Midnight Sleep Walk on April 30.

Salon owner Clair Collins told The GEM: "We are all looking forward to a great night, raising some money for Ty Hafan and showing our support for the mums of life-limited children who rarely get a full night's sleep."

Registrations are pouring in from far and wide for the Midnight Sleep Walk, which takes place in Cardiff city centre over an eight-mile route. Some registrations have come from as far afield as parts of England such as Welwyn Garden City, Purley, Reading and Rugby!

More than 500 ladies and girls over the age of 12 took part in last year's event, dressed in their pyjamas and wearing flashing bunny ears to make them visible and keep them safe.

Jo Eveleigh, head of events at Ty Hafan, said: "We are delighted with the response so far. It looks as though we are going to achieve our target of 1,500 walkers for this fun and exciting event in the capital."

While the walk is for ladies only, husbands, boyfriends and brothers would be very welcome to act as marshals on the night of the event. (Female walkers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult).

To make sure you are part of the popular Midnight Sleep Walk 2010, register online now at www.midnight-sleepwalk.co.uk or call 029 2067 2060.

Residents are 'rightly proud of their town'

The Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Jon Harris, says people are rightly proud of the town and its civic traditions. (See interview on page 18).

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cowbridge-today.co.uk
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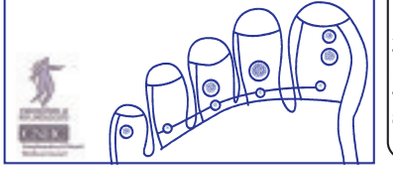

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Out and About with The GEM

Roadworks report

Plassey Street, junctions with Glebe Street/Albert Road, Penarth – carriageway width restrictions.
Pontypridd Street, junction with Mount Pleasant – footway restriction.
Windsor Road, Penarth at the junction of Hickman Road/Albert Road roundabout – temporary traffic control.
Gladstone Road Bridge to the Waterfront – temporary traffic control.
Hannah Street, Barry at the junction with Barry Road, Barry – road closure from April 5.
Aberthin Road, Cowbridge – temporary traffic control.

Flower arrangers

THE Cowbridge and District Flower Arrangers Club meets at 7.30pm on Wednesday, April 7, in the Duke of Wellington, Cowbridge, when Cynthia Hughes will give a demonstration entitled 'Written in the Stars'.

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KICK-ASS – DOES EXACTLY WHAT IT SAYS ON THE TIN!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

MATTHEW VAUGHN made his name as Guy Ritchie's producer, helping to produce the director's double whammy of *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* and *Snatch*.

Yet Vaughn always harboured ambitions of stepping behind the camera, and was given the opportunity to prove himself with *Layer Cake* in 2004. Aside from bringing Daniel Craig to the attention of the producers of a certain spy franchise, the film also showed that Vaughn was a more than capable director, taking a genre that had been well worn, ironically due to the success of the film he had produced, and reinvigorated it.

Following that up with *Stardust*, an adaptation of Neil Gaiman's novel, Vaughn again showed his directorial chops, and his third film, an adaptation of Mark Millar and John Romita Jr's comic book, *Kick-Ass*, now hits cinemas.

Aaron Johnson plays Dave Lizewski, a teenager who wonders why, given the world we live in today, there aren't any superheroes on the streets.

He becomes Kick-Ass, a superhero defending the rights of ordinary citizens; but unlike the comic books, the criminals he comes into contact with are of the real and dangerous kind, in particular Frank D'Amico (Mark Strong).

However, the likes of Big Daddy (Nicolas Cage), Hit Girl (Chloe Moretz) and the shady Red Mist (Christopher Mintz-Plasse) are also on hand, as Dave suddenly realises just what he's gotten himself into...

If you were to see Spiderman or Superman walking down the street, what would your first reaction be? Probably laughter, swiftly followed by the wonderment of why exactly somebody was dressed in spandex vowing to fight crime.

It is this type of reality that *Kick-Ass* takes place in, the real world where the concept of a man (or woman) dressing up to fight crime is as ludicrous as it seems.

Yet Matthew Vaughn and co-writer Jane Goldman aren't here to mock the world of the superhero – far from it; instead, it is a film that takes a loving look at the comic book genre, and pays attentions to the rules while simultaneously prodding and poking it, and it makes for an incredibly watchable and enjoyable film.

By now everybody should be conditioned to know the rules of the superhero world. Watch *Batman Begins*, *Spiderman*, *Iron Man* et al and you'll know how the story plays out; character decides to right the wrongs of the world, gets a costume, learns life lessons along the way and overcomes the big evil before realising that this is just the start of a life fighting crime and bad guys.

Kick-Ass doesn't subvert this in any way, instead it is almost slavish to the format – Dave Lizewski is Peter Parker in all but name – but it is the reality the film is based in that gives it its edge.

Just how does someone go about fighting crime? Where do the outfits come from? These questions are all raised and answered early on in the film, and we get to see just how hard being a superhero can be.

Vaughn and Goldman's script pays respect to Mark Millar's comic book very much in the same way Zack Snyder brought *Watchmen* to the screen – all the detail is here, but it also adds more depth and detail, asking why people are so reticent to step in and act when things happen that shouldn't happen – along with whether vigilante justice is a means to an end and the impact it has on both the vigilantes themselves and those closest to them.

While not getting overtly deep, it is still highly commendable that themes like these are raised in what is a 'comic-book' movie – it puts to shame some recent efforts that have bottled out of doing the same.

Vaughn's direction is exceptional here, and this is comfortably his most impressive outing yet. Taking his cue from the likes of *Spiderman*, the film is shot in the hues of the comic book world, Vaughn using the colours cleverly to recreate comic panels.

He also uses comic strips to flesh out backstory and give the film a visual identity related to its genre origins.

He knows his way around an action sequence as well, giving the film moments of real ingenuity to go with the shoot-outs and explosions – while the pacing of the film is perfect, Vaughn allowing the story to flow wonderfully.

He also draws excellent performances from an eclectic cast, particularly Aaron Johnson in the lead.

The English actor gets the accent perfectly, but more than that brings the character of Dave Lizewski to life with skill. Capturing the nerdish awkwardness of teen years with aplomb, he brings both an assured air and wonderful sense of innocence to the role, fleshing the character out excellently.

With dependables such as Nicolas Cage (with a understated turn) and Mark Strong (who is perfecting the art of villainy with substance), along with youngsters such as Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Clark Duke, Evan Peters and Lyndsy Fonseca, the cast are incredible. However, the stand-out performance by a country mile is Chloe Moretz as Hit Girl.

Now, the concept of an 11-year-old girl killing her way through henchmen while using language that would make sailors blush is catnip to Daily Mail readers, who will no doubt flag this film up as corruption of youth. However, it is a turn of stunning maturity and chutzpah from the actress, whose butter wouldn't melt demeanour is the perfect fit for the character.

It is a performance that is far more than one-note, and, more importantly, works once the shock factor has run out.

It's a stand-out turn as much for the 'what-did-she just-do/say' factor, as it is for acting, but Moretz is the top of the chain in a cast that has no weak links at all.

It is rare for a film to be unblemished, and no doubt some will point to the film's subject matter, the slightly geeky feel and the stylised violence as negative factors; but to this reviewer's eyes, these are not negatives, but positives that allow *Kick-Ass* to be one of the most thrilling and exciting films in recent months.

It is like the Ronseal of the movie world – a film that does exactly what it says on the tin!

VERDICT – Less a deconstruction of the superhero genre, and more a film that places the genre into the real world, *Kick-Ass* is a film that succeeds on every level, from the smart script, to Matthew Vaughn's excellent direction, and a cast that are incredibly strong.

Those who think spending two hours with a film like this is a waste of time can opt for something less impressive; those who give *Kick-Ass* their attention will not be disappointed. *Essential viewing*.

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Branch meeting

THE next meeting of the Royal British Legion (Barry branch) will be held on Monday, April 12, at 2.30pm in the Mayor's Parlour, Barry Memorial Hall.

A warm welcome to all who wish to attend.

Out and About with The GEM

Taking in Ewenny views on a 75th birthday walk

THE Vale Ramblers held a 75th anniversary walk on March 7, passing over the wonderful access land above St Brides Major, with views back down to the Ewenny valley.

The group walked past the attractive hamlet of Heol-y-mynydd and then back down a public footpath to come out onto more access land on the Heritage Coast.

The sun was shining on the resort of Porthcawl, illuminating the peninsula it stands on. The sea was shining silver and the rock faces of the cliffs stood out with a 3D effect, every feature so clearly defined.

We then walked down through the lovely Dunraven estate, stopping in the walled gardens in the warm sunshine for a coffee break.

The group continued around the estate on Tir Gofal footpaths, and along the edge of the fields (by agreement with the farmers and the support of CCW).

The walk continued through the Dunraven wooded nature reserve, (which later will be full of bluebells). The route followed public footpaths through the attractive walled fields to St Brides Major.

There the group had a picnic by the large village pond with its ancient village pump. Opposite the pond was a public house so that thirsts could be quenched.

The group later followed a country lane downhill to Castle-upon-Alun, a picturesque valley, with the lovely clear River Alun running through it.

The valley has a very old feature, an attractive clapper bridge spanning the stream. The water is clear and ripples around little islands and flows under the small arches of the bridge.

It then meanders its way through the valley to a ford with large stepping stones at the side it. During spells of very dry weather, when the water table drops, the stream can disappear into limestone caverns underground.

We then walked around the nature reserve, which we expected to be full of daffodils, but they were still short and in bud.

Like all of nature this year, they have been reluctant to burst forth in the very cold weather.

The final leg of the walk required a steep climb via a public foot path, up onto access land above the Ewenny valley.

We could see over to the other side of the valley where we started our walk. There were also lovely clear views over Bridgend to the mountains of the south Wales valleys.

MARGARET SCOTT (Vale of Glamorgan group chairman)

Hop to Bryngarw

THE elusive Easter bunny will be returning to council-run Bryngarw Country Park in Brynmenyn, Bridgend on Wednesday April 7, between 11am-3pm.

Families will be able to follow a self-guided Easter egg trail, and find hidden eggs along the way to claim your prize!

The event is suitable for children under seven, who must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.

Admission is £2 per child, with a car park fee of £2

Stamp winners

THE WINNERS of our recent Royal Society stamp competition were:

Thomas Elliott, Rhoose; Mr A Grainger, Dinas Powys; Margaret Lamb, Cowbridge; WE Dunn, Sully; Mrs William, Pyle; Stephen Jones, Pencoed; Shirley Jones, St Mary Hill; Miss C Williams, Cefn Glas; George Jeffrey, Wick; Edna Ann Jones, Ogmore Vale; GP Hiscock, Llantwit Major; G Taylor, North Cornelly; Mrs T Sobey, Wildmill; Jocelyn James, Boverton; Mrs J Cassom, Barry; Pamela Robins, Cowbridge; Ivy Payne, Barry; David Lewis, St Brides Major; Peter Launder, Cowbridge; James McKinty, Barry.

Lifesaving lottery

THIS week's top three winners of the Lifesaving lottery, from Wales Air Ambulance, are:

£1,000 winner – Mrs Valerie Johns, Narberth, Pembrokeshire (LL25533); £200 – Mr V Smith, Ogmore-by-Sea, Bridgend (LL56151); £100 – Mrs S Tanner, West Cross, Swansea (LL05869).

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 611.

- **£2,000:** 983896.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £1,000 was won by** 339701.
- **£10:** 882097; 534153; 492637; 469037; 898197; 653419; 427666; 887695; 364113; 433347; 216798; 787604; 245385; 654215; 689354; 308255; 848153; 421873; 528371; 519829.
- **£5:** 634524; 724477; 846079; 657497; 515474; 481256; 592999; 387678; 788573; 517469; 788880; 743393; 783531; 268342; 597152; 696391; 872144; 549326; 834912; 411642; 218798; 463864; 445172; 786166; 577746; 445155; 664261; 333529; 660568; 494253; 558418; 222072; 112415; 867918; 557632; 256499; 485577; 288797; 834998; 348087; 238612; 221418; 658386; 710532; 820260; 445304; 335097; 828635; 506017; 140051; 813517; 748270; 196475; 686659; 652309; 635830; 193303; 442653; 314668; 545392.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Dyspraxia meeting

THE next meeting of the Vale Dyspraxia Support Group will be the AGM at 7.30pm on Monday April 12, in the Mary Lennox Room, Barry Hospital, Colcot Road, Barry.

The Vale Dyspraxia Support Group provides support for children with dyspraxia and their families. The group helps by liaising with education authorities and the Welsh Assembly.

It is running a laptop project to support pupils with dyspraxia.

Families (both parents and children) of young people with dyspraxia and related conditions (dyslexia, ADHD, Aspergers) are very welcome to come along.

Mayor's Ball supports two great local charities

THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Howard Hamilton, would like to invite you to join him at his charity ball in aid of the Barry Beavers Swimming Club and the Rhondda Cold Knap Lifeguards, two very worthwhile and deserving charities.

Coun Hamilton said: "The charity ball is being is being held at the Memorial Hall Theatre on Friday, April 16 at a price of £25 per ticket.

"This price is great value when you consider that it includes a four-course meal, disco and live music from 'The Imposters', an extremely entertaining band who play music from several generations.

"Also there will be a raffle and an auction, which will include a football signed by the Chelsea football team, signed team photographs from Arsenal, Everton and Blackburn Rovers football clubs, a swimming cap signed by Michael Phelps (gold medallist at the 2008 Olympic Games) and many more fab items."

Everybody is welcome to join the mayor at his charity ball and tickets can be purchased by contacting the mayor's secretary on 01446 704921.

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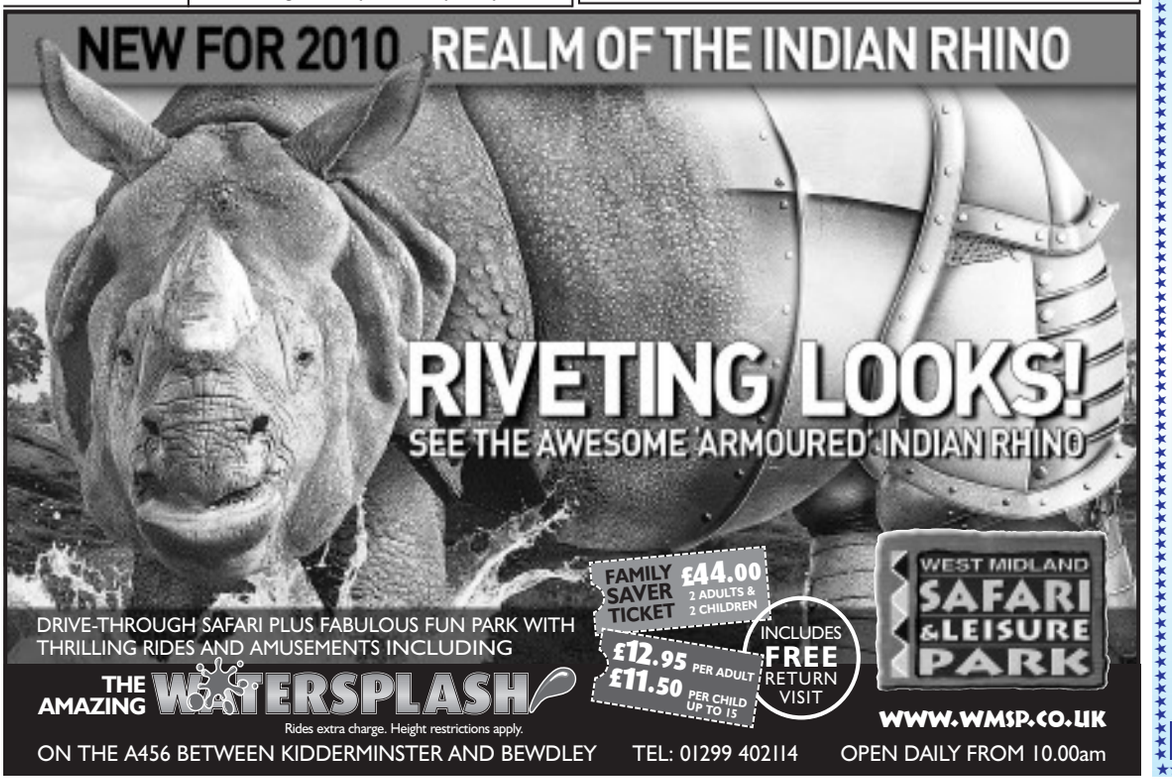

CLOSE CALL IN 'TOP SCHOOL' BADMINTON

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS ROUND-UP

THE 'Top School' badminton tournament was held at Flash Leisure Centre in Welshpool.

The school qualified with two teams for the Welsh finals. The girls team, Katie Bradbury, Lydia James, Lois Palmer and Romy Killick, were competing for the first time at this level and acquitted themselves very well.

Their first match against Brynteg High School, north Wales (runners-up in the north) proved a very competitive game with the school losing 3-2.

In the singles, Katie lost 21-11, Romy won 21-19. In the doubles, Lois and Lydia lost 21-15, Katie and Lydia won 21-13.

In the second match against Whitchurch High, the eventual winners proved a step too far against their quartet of county and Welsh players losing 5-0.

The girls finished third in their group and went on to play for fifth and sixth position against Allin School, Mold.

The girls had learnt a lot playing against county and Welsh players and put this into practice when defeating Allin School, Mold 5-0 to finish fifth overall.

In the singles Katie won 21-11, Romy won 21-17. In the doubles Lois and Lydia won 21-10, Lydia and Katie won 21-13 and Romy and Lois won 21-13.

Boys – The boys played two north Wales teams in their group, winning both matches against Brynteg and Maes Garmon 4-1 to reach the final. Although team scores looked comfortable, matches were very close.

The team was Sidarth Devalia; Wil Painter; Jack Scanlan; Rhys Mallows.

In the final, they played the south Wales champions, Cathedral School, where they lost 3-2.

Losing the opening singles made the job of winning harder, as they were 2-0 down with three matches to go.

The doubles pairings made a great effort with Jack and Rhys winning 21-6. Wil and Rhys had a comfortable win 21-8.

It was now left to Sidarth and Jack. In a tense last match, with scores even all the way, it was the Cathedral pair that managed that little bit extra, winning the game and title 21-19.

A great effort by the boys to finish runners-up at the Welsh Top Schools finals.

Rugby

THE school 1st XV hosted leaders Glantaf on a Saturday morning in the last league game of the season.

With several first team players unavailable, there were opportunities for some fresh faces to make an impression for next season.

Cowbridge dominated the first half and hard work from the pack gave Nick Davies in the back line plenty of quality ball. Nick made some great breaks and has without any doubt, been the outstanding player in the school back line this season.

Cowbridge failed to turn pressure and territory into points and, after several missed opportunities to score, Glantaf ended up leading 3-0 at half-time.

The second half saw Cowbridge reduced to 14 men as Harri Gibson was red-carded.

Glantaf made the most of the number mismatch, and Cowbridge made simple mistakes to gift Glantaf three simple tries, as the game finished 21-3.

The school 1st XV won the Llanhari Sevens tournament after a number of impressive victories over strong opposition.

Many of the players were a part of the senior squad that reached the last 16 in the UK last year at Rosslyn Park, and that experience was evident in the comprehensive 45-5 victory over Llanhari.

Cowbridge managed to take 14 players to the tournament, and were therefore able to field a number of pupils and give them vital preparation for their sector Sevens competition.

All 14 players were used against Y Pant School as Cowbridge eased to a 35-20 win. Plasmawr were also comfortably beaten, before the school faced a tough test against Radyr.

With Harri Gibson displaying electric bursts of pace, Cowbridge opened an early 5-0 lead. Radyr then produced the next three scores to lead 15-5.

Cowbridge though, never gave up and fought back strongly to win the game 32-28, with scores from Adam Wood, Tom Harrison, Fred White and the ever-reliable Nick Davies.

Year-9 and 10 Sevens: Harri Collier's year-9 team had a slow start to their Vale Sevens competition with an 18-18 draw in the first game against Stanwell, but this was their only setback in what turned out to be a very successful day for the boys.

Having comfortably swept aside Llantwit in the final group game, they qualified as runners-up due to Stanwell having a greater number of tries.

Facing Bro Morgannwg in the semi-final, some excellent controlled Sevens rugby was played, with both Scott Laken and Chris Brace scoring tries, with James Whittingham controlling behind and captain Collier throwing some outrageous dummies.

The final was the familiar sight of Stanwell, but having improved with every game the final turned out to be a non contest and Cowbridge ran away winners, six tries to two.

Year-10 suffered a shock defeat in their opening game of the Vale Sevens, losing to a very talented and determined Barry Boys, four tries to two.

Playing Llantwit in the final pool game, the boys showed some improvement, and thanks to some great individual tries for Oliver Hitching and Kristian Roberts Walters, the boys cruised into the semi-final against Bro Morgannwg.

Once again after a shaky start, Gus McPherson's team took control with Rhys Griffin showing his talent as a Sevens specialist, conducting proceedings from scrum-half.

The final turned out to be the game of the tournament and, after an exhilarating 14 minutes, Barry converted in extra time to level the game, meaning 'golden point'.

After some strong defensive plays, the ball was turned over and Tom Cunnington side-stepped his way over the try line before being mobbed by his team mates.

Year-7: In the Vale Schools Cup quarter-final against St Cyres, Cowbridge won by 57-7 with tries from Oliver Brown,Gabe Newham (two), Mathew Harper, Luke John, Rian Thomas, Joshua Brace and Jonathan Harvey.

Against Brynteg Comprehensive School, the A Team won 26-10, with tries from Tom Trotman, Kristian Jones, Mathew Harper, and Daniel Oddy. Jonathan Harvey kicked three conversions.

The B Team won 12-0, with tries from Joseff Treharne (two), and a Robert David conversion.

The C Team won 15-10, with tries from Ellis Rosser, Harry Thomas, and Harvey Stockton.

Against Llantwit in the semi-final, they won 19-5, with tries from Tom Trotman, Tom Evans, and Rian Thomas. Gabe Newham kicked two conversions.

In the Vale Schools and A side tournament, held At Bro Morgannwg, Cowbridge had a tough match in the group stages with Barry Comprehensive, winning in the end 26-12.

Tries were by Tom Trotman (two), Kristian Jones and Tom Lucas.

In the second match against Stanwell, it was a more comfortable win as the boys began to play good Sevens rugby. Tries were by Tom Trotman (two), Kristian Jones (three) and Joe Davies.

In the semi-final, St Cyres were defeated comfortably 48-0. Tries were by Tom Trotman (two), Kristian Jones, Frazer McGhan, Daniel Oddy (two), and Jonathan Harvey.

The final against Bro Morgannwg was won in the first half with the best handling of the day from the squad, going into a 34-0 lead.

Bro were a different outfit in the second half as they kept the ball for longer periods, resulting in two tries and the final score was 34-12. Tries were by Tom Trotman (three), Kristian Jones, Tom Lucas and Ben Jones.

Squad members not mentioned already: Gabe Newham, Hywel Williams, Luke John, Joshua Brace.

Year-8: In the Vale Schools semi-finals against Barry Comprehensive School, Cowbridge year-8 won 38-0 with tries from Harry Dowell-Bennett (two), George Griffiths, Joseff Gaughan, Mark Herbert and Dan Holder, with conversions by Sean Rowland (two) and Mathew Roberts (two).

Against Presentation College, Bray, Dublin, the year-8 team hosted a school from Dublin on a glorious Saturday morning.

Thanks go to the referees, an old boy of the school, Hugh Williams and the Master from Presentation College.

All three teams proved slightly stronger, with all teams winning.

The A Team won 58-0 – Tries from Harri Dowell-Bennett (two), Nicky Griffiths, George Griffiths, Joseff Gaughan (four), Tom Higgins and Joshua Thomas.

The B Team won 64-0 – Tries from Harry Stubbington, Llwyd Ems (two), Daniel Evans (three), Trystyan Pugh and Joe Davies (three).

The C Team won 10-0 – Tries by Joe Russell and Joshua Brace.

In the Vale of Glamorgan Schools Sevens tournament, B Team against Llantwit, A Team won 27-0. Tries by Harri Stubbington, Mathew Roberts (two), Owen Ace and Aaron Bowman.

Against Barry Comprehensive, Cowbridge lost 40-12. Tries by Alex Guard and Llwyd Elms.

Against Stanwell, Cowbridge lost 10-0. The B Team finished third in their group.

The A Team played Bro Morgannwg, and Cowbridge won 41-0. Tries by Harri Dowell-Bennett (four), George Griffiths, Joseff Gaughan and Dan Holder.

Against St Cyres the team won 41-0. Tries by Harri Dowell-Bennett (four), Sean Rowland, Josef Gaughan and Joshua Thomas.

In the semi-final against Barry Comprehensive, Cowbridge won 39-0. Tries were by Harri Dowell-Bennett (three), George Griffiths, Joseff Gaughan and Joshua Thomas.

In the final against St Cyres, they won 43-12. Tries were from Harri Dowell-Bennett (three), George Griffiths (three), Joseff Gaughan. Sean Rowland kicked four conversions.

Squad members not already mentioned: B Team – Liam Martin, Harri Goodfellow, Wil Dent, Tom Higgins, Mathew Howells, Sam Richards.

A Team – Nicky Griffiths, Adam Dix, Mark Herbert, Mathew Lock.

Best of luck to the boys when they play at the Berkhamsted Invitation Sevens tournament.

Year-8 Football

IN the Cardiff & Vale Schools Cup second round, Cowbridge played St Teilos at Roath Park, winning 7-0.

Goals came from Sam Richards, Wil Mathews, Joshua Thomas (two), Matthew Roberts and Alex Guard (two).

Against Cathedral School, the A Team lost 7-1 with one goal by Wil Mathews.

The B Team won 7-0 with goals from Sam Richards (four), James Smart, Tom Griffiths and Owen Ace.

Against Mary Immaculate in the quarter-final Bluebirds Cup, Cowbridge won 3-2 in extra time after being 2-1 down at the interval.

A few substitutions in the second half made a difference, with Sam Richards' distribution a key to some outstanding goals from captain Marcus Knevett, Mathew Roberts and Declan Thomas.

The boys will now play Willows High School Cardiff in the semi-final on the Bear Field.

Netball

THE year-7 netball team played in their annual Cardiff & Vale County preliminary tournament at Whitchurch.

Cowbridge were drawn against Glantaf and the seeded team Cardiff High.

Cowbridge played Glantaf first. The two teams were evenly matched with a half-time score of 2-2. Unfortunately, goal attack Kim Jerwood went over on her ankle and without another shooter in the second half, Cowbridge had three chances to score but couldn't get the ball in the net, whereas Glantaf had an opportunity twice, making the final score 4-2 to Glantaf.

In the second match against Whitchurch, Kim's ankle made a quick recovery and the team settled back down with Meg McNamee controlling the game in centre and Izzy Eddy Williams working hard in attack, with Kim Jerwood and Emily Davies shooting.

Hannah Lister Sims, Becky Thomas and Caitlin Jones performed well in defence, making many interceptions, but unfortunately the team were beaten by a taller, stronger Cardiff High School team, 7-4.

The school's gymnastic squad.

Year-8: The year-8 netball team played in their preliminary netball tournament.

In the first game, Cowbridge played Bishop of Llandaff and by half-time it was close with Cowbridge leading by 3-2.

In the second half, Cowbridge settled down with Olivia Brown taking her captaincy role very seriously by talking to the team and telling the girls what to do, resulting in a more controlled second half and a winning performance 7-3.

In the second game, Cowbridge played Llantwit with a shaky start and some sloppy footwork which meant play was stop-start, but with Lilly Evans' great control and Sarah Lewis' defence work and Hannah Woodward and Joanna Wilkins getting their eye in, Cowbridge won by 5-3.

Cowbridge played Whitchurch in the third game, winning by an easy 10-1.

Team: Olivia Brown (captain), Annabel Curle, Lilly Evans, Amy O'Donnell, Hannah Woodwood, Joanna Wilkins, Sarah Lewis, Georgia Lott, Eliza Smith.

Gymnastics

IN the Welsh Schools Big Floor and Vault championship held at the Welsh Institute of Sport, Sophia Gardens Cardiff, the school entered three teams at under-13, and a mixed team for the senior age group.

Results as follows: Senior Mixed team – 4th – 67.20 points; Under-13 girls team – 3rd – 66.60 points; Under-13 boys team – 1st – 63.10 points; Under-13 mixed team – 1st – 69.80 points.

These are the best set of results the school has achieved at National level with two teams going on to compete for Wales at the British Schools finals in Stoke-on-Trent on Sunday, May 9. Well done to all.

Individual results as follows: Lily Evans and Dylan Layzell represented the county at the Welsh Tumble and Vault Inter-County championships, with Lily helping the team to win gold and Dylan team silver.

Sports Hall Athletics

THE Cardiff and Vale Schools County championships were held at Whitchurch Lower School in their sports hall, which is twice the size of Cowbridge Leisure Centre.

Under-13 boys: 2 Laps – 5th Harri Dowell Bennett 21.7secs; 11th Kristian Jones (year-7) 22.3 secs.

4 Laps – 10th Joshua Thomas 52.1 secs; 11th Joseff Gaughan 52.8 secs.

6 Laps – 5th Tom Owen 84.3 secs.

Standing Long Jump – 6th Cameron Jones 2m 16cm; 14th Joshua Thomas 2m 06; 17th Kristian Jones 1m 98; 21st Declan Thomas 1m 95; 37th Tom Owen 1m 68.

High Jump – 4th Declan Thomas 1m 25; 13th Tom Owen 1m 15.

Vertical Jump – 6th Harry Dowell-Bennett 40cms; 11th Tom Owen 20cms.

Speed Bounce – 12th Joshua Thomas 61; 29th Tom Owen 46.

Shot – 14th Tom Owen 5m 60.

Standing Triple Jump – 8th Tom Trotman (year-7) 6m 66; 14th Cameron Jones 6m 06; 16th Kristian Jones 5m 28.

The following athletes gained medal position: Bronze – Speed Bounce, Kristian Davies 69. Shot, Harri Dowell Bennett 8m 80.

Silver – 2 Lap, Tom Trotman 21.2 secs. 6 Lap, Cameron Jones 79.2 secs. Standing Triple Jump, George Griffiths 7m 12cm. High Jump, Tom Trotman 1m 35cm. Speed Bounce, Cameron Jones 70.

Gold – 2 Lap, George Griffiths 21.1 sec. Standing Long Jump, George Griffiths 2m 59. High Jump, George Griffiths 1m 50. Shot, Joseff Gaughan 10m 30cm. George Griffiths and Tom Trotman have been selected to represent the county at the Welsh finals in Cwmbran.

Under-15 Boys: 2 Lap – 9th Christian Roberts-Walters 21.4 secs; James Griffiths 21.4 secs; 12th Harri Hitchcock 21.5 secs; 24th Jack Wilcox 21.8 secs; 52nd Tom Cunnington 23.7 secs.

Shot – 10th James Griffiths 8.90m; 11th Christian-Roberts-Walters 8.80m; 18th Tom Cunnington 8m 10.

Standing Long Jump – 11th Christian Roberts Walters 2m 16; 16th James Griffiths 2m 10.

Standing Triple Jump – 2nd Harri Hitchcock 6m 96.

Speed Bounce – 5th Harri Hitchcock 73.

Harri Hitchcock has been selected as a reserve for the Welsh finals.

The year-7 rugby squad with their trophy.

ABOVE: The 'top school' badminton teams

Break dancing with a difference at Llantwit!

ABOVE: Lunch times have taken a more energetic turn at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School – thanks to a new break dancing club.

A BREAK dancing club is proving a hit with lunch time older students at the Llantwit Major Comprehensive School.

The teenagers, taught by local crew 'Elemental Force', took the school's eisteddfod by storm when their performance won the award for 'most entertaining act'.

Other pupils who would like to show off their own moves are invited to get involved.

It was made possible thanks to a scheme which provides extra-curricular activities to encourage secondary school pupils across Wales to get active for at least 60 minutes, five days a week (5x60).

Llantwit Major Comprehensive School's 5x60 officer, Barry Cawte, said: "It can be easy for lunch times to be spent just hanging around, not getting up to much – but activities such as break dancing, are helping pupils to make better use of their time, by working up a sweat and learning something new.

"The break dancing club has been set up with support from the PE team and other staff, and is proving to be a huge hit."

Chair of the Sports Council for Wales, Professor Laura McAllister, said: "One of the winning formulas behind 5x60 is that pupils can take part in physical activity during lunch times and after school.

"The challenge now is to open the school doors for 5x60 at weekends and in school holidays. S

"Success stories and new activities such as this at Llantwit Major lay the foundations for the Sports Council for Wales' long-term objective, to ensure that as many of these youngsters as possible get hooked on sport for life."

Dr Who locates £1,500 for Ty Hafan

THE Ty Hafan children's hospice received a boost to their fund-raising recently when they were presented with a cheque for £1,500 by Aberthaw Power Station.

The money was part of a location fee paid for using North Quarry to film scenes for the up-and-coming new episodes of Dr Who.

The episodes are due to air over the Easter period and the storyline is a closely-guarded secret.

When not transformed for the Time Lord, North Quarry is being used for the ash produced from burning coal at the power station, as part of the restoration of the land.

It was decided between the power station and the quarry owner for the fee to be donated to local charities, with Ty Hafan receiving half.

The remaining half was divided equally between Rhoose Boxing Club, Rhoose Lifeguard Club and Rhoose & District History Society.

COWBRIDGE JUNIOR RUGBY round-up

Under-11s lose out in the Blues Cup

COWBRIDGE under-11s lost a very hard-fought game at Pontypridd to exit the Blues Cup at the quarter-final stage.

The first half was evenly contested, with the smaller and lighter Cowbridge forwards dominating the first 10 minutes and opened the scoring when Harrison Stevens burst through the Pontypridd defence from 15 yards out to score in the corner. The try was converted by Cai Evans.

Cowbridge continued to control the match and good interplay by their backs saw Rhys Barnard hauled down just a yard from the line.

The Cowbridge pack were excelling themselves in rucks and mauls with Matthew Keating, Tomos Evans-Williams and Charlie Martin in outstanding form.

Unfortunately, an unlucky bounce saw the ball eluding the defence to allow Pontypridd to score a try that was against the run of play.

Pontypridd scored again just before half-time to leave Cowbridge trailing by seven points.

The home side, with a much larger squad than Cowbridge, made a number of changes in the second half and eventually took control of the game. It came as no surprise when Pontypridd scored two further tries to take an unassailable lead.

Cowbridge tackled tenaciously to prevent their opponents scoring again, with Osian John, Seán Davies and Toff Patel holding up the forwards close to the line.

Cowbridge refused to wilt and were rewarded with a try in the last few minutes when Joe Watts off-loaded to man of the match Dan Bunney, who ran in for a well-worked try which was again converted by Cai Evans.

Final score: Pontypridd 28 Cowbridge 14.

In a second match, Cowbridge and Pontypridd drew 10 points all. Tries for Cowbridge were scored by Dan Bunney and Cai Evans.

Ollie Rampling and Henry Jones were in fine form in the pack and wing Sam John was unlucky not to score at the end of the game.

Under-7s

A lovely spring morning on a very boggy cattle market pitch saw the under-7s entertaining the Cardiff CRICC team in a very even encounter.

Cowbridge had more boys capable of scoring tries, but were up against a team who made up for their lack of strike runners by giving a first class lesson in tagging, keeping a good defensive line and not following the ball around.

A complete lack of tagging led to a two-try deficit before Ben Farrell ran in at the corner following a good team effort.

Another two tries were conceded before Ioan Davies went over for two well-taken tries.

This meant that the Cowbridge boys found it increasingly difficult to break through the defensive line and lapsed into individuals trying on their own.

Some poor tagging led to a further two tries conceded, before Oliver Jarmain scored a good solo effort before once again, the boys conceded another two tries.

Final score: Cowbridge 4 CRICC 8.

Squad: Ioan Davies, Ben Farrell, James Gilvear, David Harris, Matthew Gilvear, Robbie Hawkins, Elis Howell, Harri Howkins, Oliver Jarmain, Aled Leitch, Dewi Lloyd Williams, Charlie Lock, Iestyn Owen.

ML

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ST ATHAN - £124,950

Modern three bedroom semi-detached house comprising hallway, Lounge/Diner with French doors to rear garden, Fitted Kitchen, Newly fitted Bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Open plan garden to front and garden to the rear. Ref 505D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £165,000

Traditional town semi-detached cottage refurbished throughout in 2008 located in the heart of the town close to all amenities comprising Dining Room/Kitchen with Belfast sink and Range style cooker, spacious Living Room, Bathroom, Two bedrooms to first floor and Shower Room. Gas fired central heating. Exposed beam ceilings. Well equipped with furnishings remaining. Courtyard area. Freehold Ref 506D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £259,000

Very well maintained spacious three bedroom detached house with garage and conservatory set in good size gardens situated in a cul-de-sac comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Luxury Bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Landscaped rear garden. Freehold Ref 507D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £90,000

Modern three bedroom mid link house comprising Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/ Diner, Rear Hall, Cloakroom, Bathroom/WC. Part UPVC double glazed. Gas fired central heating. Garden to front and rear with off road parking. Freehold Ref 376D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £69,500

Purpose built self contained first floor flat which forms part of a retirement development. Comprises Hallway with walk-in cupboard off, Sitting Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Bedroom, Modern Bathroom. Gas central heating. Communal facilities of laundry room and guest suite. Parking. Ref 448D

ST ATHAN VILLAGE - £149,500

Established three bedroom semi-detached house comprising hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast room, Ground floor shower room, Family Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Driveway and garden to front and large rear garden. Freehold Ref 459D

BOVERTON - £139,750

Modern three bedroom link house with garage comprising Porch, Lounge, Well fitted Kitchen/Dining Room, Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas fired central heating. Open plan to front and good size rear garden with access to the garage. Ref 464D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £310,000

Spacious seven bedroom detached house with integral garage. The property has enjoyed residency for two families. Comprises Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Sitting Room, Kitchenette, Cloakroom/Shower room, Family Bathroom, Gas central heating. Driveway and garden to front and rear. Freehold Ref 478D

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- Double glazing

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- Double glazing

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- Warden and alarm

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- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden and alarm

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West Walk, Barry

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Suitable for a single person or couple over 40– no pets
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- Ground floor
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- Double glazing
- Level access shower

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Winston Road, Barry

H4U Reference 229199
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- Gardens

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FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Close yr Harbwr	151	Gold	15/01/10
Edward Street	54	Gold	18/11/09
Harvey Street	79	Gold	27/07/06
Heritage Drive	142	Gold	22/01/10
Magellan Close	123	Gold	11/03/09
Owain Court	16	Gold	14/01/10
Robins Lane	151	Gold	02/04/09
Shakespeare Road	82	Gold	10/09/09
St Govans	19	Gold	02/02/10
Station Road	62	Gold	17/12/08
Tensing Terrace	19	Bronze	01/06/09
Winchester Close	133	Gold	15/01/09

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PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003

We, the management committee of Peterston-super-Ely Church and Community Hall, do hereby give notice that we have applied to the Licensing Authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the Grant of our Premises Licence at Peterston-super-Ely Church and Community Hall, Ffordd-yr-Eglwys, Peterston-super-Ely CF5 6LH, known as Peterston Church and Community Hall.

The application is to extend the hours the Hall is available for hire from 9am to 1am on each day of the week for performance of plays, exhibition of films, indoor sport, performance of live music, playing of recorded music, performance of dance, karaoke, children's entertainers, provision of facilities for making music, dancing, entertainment, late night refreshment, supply of alcohol for consumption.

Any persons wishing to make representations to this application may do so in writing to the Senior Licensing Officer, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU, not later than 28 days after the date of this notice. Representations received after this date will not be considered.

A copy of the application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

J Parry - April 1, 2010

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Richard Evan Rhys Williams trading as **Evan Williams Racing** of **Aberogwrn Farm, Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3AE**

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Owners or occupiers of the land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Welsh Traffic Area, Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

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Public Notices

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MARRIAGE ACT 1994 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

Take notice that the above department has received the following application under the above Act from Mr Steffan Wilson for Memorial Hall and Theatre, Gladstone Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 8NA to be approved as a venue for Marriage and Civil Partnership Ceremonies.

This application and associated plans are available for public inspection between 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU.

Any person wishing to object to the grant of this approval should write to the above address giving reasons for their objection within 21 days of the date of publication of this notice.

Peter H Evans
Director of Legal, Public Protection & Housing Services

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

GWASANAETHAU CYFREITHIOL, DIOGELU'R CYHOEDD A THAI

DEDDF PRIODAS 1994 A DEDDF PARTNERIAETH SIFIL 2004

Hysbysir trwy hyn bod yr adran uchod wedi derbyn y cais canlynol o dan y Ddeddf uchod gan Mr Steffan Wilson i Neuadd Gofia a Theatr, Heol Gladstone, Y Barri, Bro Morgannwg, CF62 8NA gael ei chymeradwyo fel lleoliad i gynnal Seremonïau Priodas a Phartneriaeth Sifil.

Mae'r cais hwn a'r cynlluniau cysylltiedig ar gael i'w gweld rhwng 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m., o ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener yn y Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Heol Holton Road, Y Barri CF63 4RU.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wrthwynebu'r cais hwn ysgrifennu i'r cyfeiriad uchod yn rhoi rheseisau am eu gwrthwynebiad o fewn 21 diwrnod i ddyddiad cyhoeddi'r hysbysiad hwn.

Peter H Evans
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, Diogelu'r Cyhoedd a Thai

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Anniversaries

50th 50th

HAPPY GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Wendy *and* Terry HALLETT

4th April 2010

All our love, Emma, Martin, David, Matthew, their partners and all your grandchildren

x x x x

50th 50th

Family Notices

GREEN
Harry

EX-STEWARD of LLANTWIT MAJOR SOCIAL CLUB

Sheila and Alun would like to thank all those who attended Dad's (Harry's) funeral on March 12, 2010, and for the many cards and messages of sympathy they have received.

Special thanks to all his neighbours, carers, special friends and relations who enjoyed Dad's company and 'looked in' on him during his life.

Also, a special thanks to the Reverend Clive Jones for the Service, and the staff of AG Adams for the funeral arrangements.

Also, thanks to all whom have made donations to the Royal British Legion in Harry's memory.

JENKINS
Huw Steven

Sue and Ron would like to thank their family, friends and neighbours for attending Huw's funeral, donations to Barnardo's Family Link Scheme, and the many cards and messages of sympathy.

Special thanks to Rev Melanie Prince for a moving service and celebration of our dear son's life and to W.James of Fonmon for the funeral arrangements.

A very special thank-you to all the nurses and carers of April Nursing Care Agency for their devotion and loving care for Huw at home for many years.

Finally we also wish to thank Dr R. Jones and Partners for supporting us unfailingly throughout Huw's life.

TAYLOR
Sharon Marie

Suddenly on March 23, at her home in Llantwit Major, Sharon, beloved wife of Malcolm, a dearly loved mother of David, Paul and Vicky, dear mother-in-law of Tanya and Gareth, much loved grandmother of Katie, Jack, Daniel, Joseph, Chantelle, Corey and Amy-Leigh, loving daughter of Margaret Costley.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thurs April 8, service 2.15pm at St Illtuds Church, Llantwit Major followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.45pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Noah's Ark Appeal c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

Dot Mitchell

Ian, Lynda and Sue would like to thank everyone for the many flowers, cards, messages of sympathy and donations following Dot's short illness.

Also a special thanks to Father Maher for giving such a memorable service.

Birthdays

Happy 1st Birthday ROBIN!

You are the sunshine of our lives!

All our love from Mummy, Daddy, Amma and Gramps.

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DON JOHN

April 2nd

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ALEX FLOWER

April 2, 2010

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18 on 7th April

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XXX

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Bristol trip is a good day out for Sea View

HISTORY was made recently when Sea View RFC, the youngest rugby club in Wales, travelled away to Abbey Wood RFC, the youngest rugby club in England, for a midweek friendly.

The ceremonies began with a minute's silence for club player Willo's father, Mickey Williams, who sadly passed away on Tuesday, March 16.

Despite this difficult time, he performed admirably in his milestone 25th game for the club and our deepest sympathies go out to his family members for their loss.

Strong running from Leon Ford, returning from injury, set the high benchmark for what proved to be a brilliant game of rugby.

Sterling work at the breakdown by Chris Hann and Trevor Huelin provided quick, clean ball for stand-in scrum-half Reth Davies.

Led by the skipper, Jon Blake, the View totally dominated the scrums, and this provided the perfect platform to allow the backs to obtain undisturbed ball through the game.

A long spell of Abbey Wood possession found them on the Sea View try line but superb defensive tackling from Wayne Burston and Braithwaite kept Abbey Wood from scoring.

However, a moment of indiscipline resulted in a penalty being awarded to the home side, which was easily converted from under the posts.

Undeterred by the concession, Sea View battled hard and were awarded a lineout 15 yards from the Abbey Wood line.

A trademark lineout manoeuvre saw Leon Ford break through the Abbey Wood pack and crash over the line to score the first try of the game; Glyn Smith was unable to convert.

Three points were added to the Abbey Wood total, from 20 yards out, as the Sea View pack paid the price for their indiscipline.

Sea View dominated the next 10 minutes of play, with Steve Ball linking up nicely with his backline. However, a wayward pass by Chris Taylor allowed the Abbey Wood winger to scoop the ball and run the full length of the field to score a converted try under the posts.

After stunning interplay from the backs, View were rewarded with a penalty five yards from the goal line.

Reth Davies took a quick 'tap and go' and the ever-supportive Trevor Huelin powered his way over the line.

Abbey Wood gained an unconverted try before the break, making it **Abbey Wood 18, Sea View 10.**

The rucking game began to take its toll on a tiring Sea View pack and the Abbey Wood flanker finished a well-worked try under the posts, leaving an easy conversion for their kicker.

Some much-needed substitutions were made, which included the return of Ross Adams after a long ankle injury. Justin Sammut and Tim Fowler both slotted into the side well, producing some great runs and tackles.

The View, inspired by the leadership of their senior players, rallied together for the last 10 minutes and wisely encouraged their younger wide men to capitalise on the tiring Abbey Wood team.

Sea View eventually stretched the home defence, with Chris Burston scoring two converted tries as the game drew to a close.

Final score: Abbey Wood 25, Sea View 24.

Sea View would like to thank Abbey Wood RFC for their generosity in paying for the minibus in which Sea View travelled to Bristol. This gesture emphasised the spirit of the sport and the friendships that are created between distant clubs.

The View have a bottom of the Premier League battle against Tongwynlais.

Their final league fixture is a home derby against Sully Sports on Saturday, April 10.

MV

Positive first season for under-9 team

Back row (left to right): Lawrence Walpole, Daniel Richards, Evan Wells, Daniel Barnett, Ruben Fahiya, Joseph Allwood. Front: Jack Such, Sam Hopkins, Dylan Lee, Rhys Woolmer, Sam Montgomery, Jack Pascoe.

BARRY ATHLETIC FC under-9s team formed in the summer of 2009.

The inaugural season has been a great success for all concerned, with the main benefit being the affiliation with the existing football section at Barry Athletic.

The team has enjoyed the advantage of having their own facilities, which includes a well-maintained pitch.

The coaching team would like to express their gratitude by extending a huge thank you to Tony Mulhern of TEMA for the sponsorship of the kit and to Viv Davies and Rob Newman for not only giving the team the opportunity to join Barry Athletic FC, but also for their much-valued help throughout the season.

Thanks also go to Brian George at Monument Creative Design, to the Community Chest and to the parents and supporters for their support.

The coaching team would also like to congratulate the players for what has been an enjoyable first season.

A special mention goes to Evan Wells, Daniel Barnett and Joseph Alwood, all selected to represent Cardiff City's advanced development centre under-9s and the Vale of Glamorgan academy, to Jack Pascoe, selected for Cardiff City's advanced development centre under-8s, to Rhys Woolmer, selected for the Cardiff City coaching centre and the Vale of Glamorgan academy.

Also, Ruben Fahiya was selected for the Cardiff City coaching centre and Lawrence Walpole was selected for the Vale of Glamorgan academy.

DW

PETERSTON'S RUGBY TOURNAMENT IS GREAT SUCCESS DESPITE HEAVY RAIN

PHOTOGRAPHS by IAN DIXON

PETERSTON Church in Wales Junior School hosted a primary school tag rugby tournament on March 15.

It involved 14 teams from all over the Vale, including girls and boys from Barry, Sully, Wick, St Nicholas, and Pendoylan.

The youngsters enjoyed a highly successful competition with tries galore despite the incessant rain.

CARDIFF & VALE OF GLAMORGAN SCHOOLS AA

Success for Vale pupils at sports hall meeting

by PETER MORRIS

PUPILS from three Vale schools – Bryn Hafren, Cowbridge and St Cyres – competed in this year's Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Schools' sport shall championships, which were held in three afternoon sessions in the sports hall at Whitchurch Lower School.

The events in the under-13 section, for pupils in years 7 and 8, are individual competitions, while pupils in years 9 and 10 (under-15) take part in all rounder competition, selecting one event out of two in three sections and gaining points for their ranking in each competition.

With more than 400 pupils taking part, the competition, particularly in the boys' events, was of a high standard.

Four pupils – all from Cowbridge Comprehensive – claimed titles.

Star of the under-13 competitions was year-8 George Griffiths, who claimed a hat trick of wins in the 2 laps, high jump and standing long jump. His team-mate, Joe Gaughan, won the shot event, while Annabel Curle, the South Wales Regional Schools under-13 cross-country champion, showed her versatility by heading the pupils in the standing triple jump.

In the under-15 section, there was double success for Cowbridge year-10 Romy Killick, who was the best pupil in the speed bounce and, with a points total of 438 (out of 450), also claimed the all-rounder title.

All four pupils will receive their award at the Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Schools' Track & Field Presentation Evening, to be held at Cardiff High School on Tuesday, September 7, starting at 7pm.

Results of Vale pupils: Under-15 Boys All Rounder – Years 9 and 10 – 2 Laps: 7 Matthew Roan (St Cyres) 21.2; 9= James Griffith (Cow) and Christian Walters (Cow) 21.4; 12= Harry Hitchcock (Cow) 21.5; 24= Jack Wilcox (Cow) 21.8; 52 Tom Cunningham (Cow) 23.7. Standing Long Jump; 10 Matthew Roan (St Cyres) 2.17; 11 Christian Walters (Cow) 2.16; 16 James Griffith (Cow) 2.10. Standing Triple Jump: 2 Harry Hitchcock (Cow) 6.96; 12 Abdel Boulaiche (St Cyres) 5.85. Shot (4 kg): 6 Matthew Roan (St Cyres) 9.20; 10 James Griffith (Cow) 8.90; 11 Christian Walters (Cow) 8.80; 18 Tom Cunningham (Cow) 8.10; 20 Jack Wilcox (Cow) 8.00. Speed Bounce: 5= Harry Hitchcock (Cow) 73; 9= Abdel Boulaiche (St Cyres) 70; 9= Max Harcombe Radyr 70.

Under-15 Boys placings – 6= Harry Hitchcock (Cow) 414; 8 Matthew Roan (St Cyres) 410; 11 Abdel Boulaiche (St Cyres) 394; 12 Christian Walters (Cow) 392; 15 James Griffith (Cow) 384; 68 Jack Wilcox (Cow) 214; 72 Tom Cunningham (Cow) 166.

Under-13 Boys – Years 7 and 8 – 2 Laps: 1 George Griffiths (Cow) 21.1; 2 Tom Trotman (Cow) 21.2; 5= Harry Dowell-Bennett (Cow) 21.7; 11 Kristian Jones (Cow) 22.3. 4 Laps: 10 Joshua Thomas (Cow) 52.1; 11 Joseph Gaughn (Cow) 52.8. 6 Laps: 2 Cameron Jones (Cow) 79.2; 5 Tom Owen (Cow) 84.3. Standing Long Jump: 1 George Griffiths (Cow) 2.59; 6 Cameron Jones (Cow) 2.16; 14 Josh Thomas (Cow) 2.02; 17 Kristian Jones (Cow) 1.98; 21 Declan Thomas (Cow) 1.95; 37 Tom Owen (Cow) 1.68. Standing Triple Jump: 2 George Griffiths (Cow) 7.12; 8 Tom Trotman (Cow) 6.66; 14 Cameron Jones (Cow) 6.06; 16 Kristian Jones (Cow) 5.28; 17 Tom Owen (Cow) 5.00. High Jump: 1 George Griffiths (Cow) 1.50; 2 Tom Trotman (Cow) 1.35; 4= Declan Thomas (Cow) 1.25; 13 Tom Owen (Cow) 1.05. Vertical Jump: 6 Harry Dowell-Bennett (Cow) 40; 11 Tom Owen (Cow) 20. Speed Bounce: 2 Cameron Jones (Cow) 70; 3= Kristian Jones (Cow) 69; 12= Josh Thomas (Cow) 61; 29 Tom Owen (Cow) 46. Shot (3.25kg): 1 Joe Gaughan (Cow) 10.30; 3 Harry Dowell-Bennett (Cow) 8.80; 14 Tom Owen (Cow) 5.60.

Under-15 Girls All-Rounder – Years 9 and 10 – 2 Laps: 3 Romy Killick (Cow) 22.7; 4= Caitlin Allin (Cow) 23.1; 6= Elizabeth Whitehouse (Cow) 23.2; 13 Mairi Boxall (Cow) 23.8; 14= Amy Wallis (Cow) 24.0; 24= Jessica Oliver (Cow) 24.9; 30= Melisa Gooding (Cow) 25.9; 38 Hannah Taylor (Cow) 28.2. 4 Laps: 3 Miriam Bennett (Cow) 51.4; 4 Rachel Bradshaw (Cow) 51.6; 5 Molly Frost (Cow) 51.7; 8 Katie Wynne (Cow) 52.8; 9= Katie Munro (Cow) 53.4; 11 Nancie Edwards (Cow) 54.0. Standing Long Jump: 2 Melisa Gooding (Cow) 2.16; 4 Rachel Bradshaw (Cow) 2.01; 5 Romy Killick (Cow) 1.99; 6 Jessica Oliver (Cow) 1.98; 8 Miriam Bennett (Cow) 1.96; 22 Hannah Taylor (Cow) 1.60; 23 Katie Munro (Cow) 1.58; 24 Caitlin Allin (Cow) 1.56; 25 Amy Wallis (Cow) 1.56; 26 Nancie Edwards (Cow) 1.56. Vertical Jump: 3 Molly Frost (Cow) 50; 7 Katie Wynne (Cow) 47; 10 Mairi Boxall (Cow) 44; 18 Elizabeth Whitehouse (Cow) 40. Shot (3.25kg): 3 Katie Wynne (Cow) 6.50; 7 Mairi Boxall (Cow) 6.20; 8 Molly Frost (Cow) 6.20; 12 Elizabeth Whitehouse (Cow) 5.70; 23 Jessica Oliver (Cow) 4.60. Speed Bounce: 1 Romy Killick (Cow) 79; 4 Caitlin Allin (Cow) 73; 5= Miriam Bennett (Cow) 69; 8= Melisa Gooding (Cow) 67; 11 Rachel Bradshaw (Cow) 65; 16 Hannah Taylor (Cow) 57; 19 Nancie Edwards (Cow) 51.

Under-15 Girls placings – 1 Romy Killick (Cow) 438; 5 Molly Frost (Cow) 424; 6 Miriam Bennett (Cow) 422; 7 Katie Wynne (Cow) 420; 9 Rachel Bradshaw (Cow) 410; 16 Mairi Boxall (Cow) 394; 17 Caitlin Allin (Cow) 391; 19 Elizabeth Whitehouse (Cow) 383; 22 Melisa Gooding (Cow) 374; 32= Jessica Oliver (Cow) 349; 35 Nancie Edwards (Cow) 344; 47 Hannah Taylor (Cow) 304; 50 Katie Munro (Cow) 239; 51 Amy Wallis (Cow) 224.

Under-13 Girls – Years 7 and 8 – 2 Laps: 7 Zoe Jenkins (Bryn H) 24.1; 28 Chelsea Roxberry (Bryn H) 25.1; 35= Olivia Brown (Cow) 25.6; 35= Chelsea Hutchin (Bryn H) 25.6; 35= Ami Rees (Bryn H) 25.6; 43 Sarah Lewis (Cow) 26.1; 52 Gniellie Rodriguez (St Cyres) 27.2; 58= Ellis Auclas (St Cyres) 27.9; 58= Lauren Eveleigh (Bryn H) 27.9; 63 Sarah Arnold (Bryn H) 28.4. 4 Laps: 2 Izzy Eddy-Williams (Cow) 50.3; 5 Niamh Gallagher (Cow) 51.1; 23 Olivia McCormack (Bryn H) 59.1; 27 Fatena Rahman (St Cyres) 67.3. 6 Laps: 3 Rachel Cosier (Bryn H) 83.5; 11 Tillie Carter (Bryn H) 88.8; 12 Abbie Hamett (Bryn H) 91.2. Standing Long Jump: 4 Izzy Eddy-Williams (Cow) 2.00; 8 Chelsea Hutchin (Bryn H) 1.88; 22 Gniellie Rodriguez (St Cyres) 1.76; 24= Olivia Brown (Cow) 1.74; 28 Tillie Carter (Bryn H) 1.66; 29 Ami Rees (Bryn H) 1.66; 35 Georgia Lougher (Bryn H) 1.60; 38 Chelsea Roxberry (Bryn H) 1.58. Standing Triple Jump: 1 Annabel Curle (Cow) 5.76; 3 Sarah Lewis (Cow) 5.63; 5 Kirsty Hogg (St Cyres) 5.32; 13 Keyleigh Borge (Bryn H) 5.09; 14 Rachel Cosier (Bryn H) 5.04; 16 Gniellie Rodriguez (St Cyres) 4.94; 17 Abbie Hamett (Bryn H) 4.92; 26 Lauren Seviour (Bryn H) 4.54; 31 Emily Perry (Bryn H) 4.20; 33 Fatena Rahman (St Cyres) 4.04; 37 Ami Rees (Bryn H) 3.96. High Jump: 4= Annabel Curle (Cow) 1.20; 4= Jordan Carpenter (Cow) 1.20; 6 Emily Perry (Bryn H) 1.15; 9= Zoe Jenkins (Bryn H) 1.15; 13 Keyleigh Borge (Bryn H) 1.00. Vertical Jump: 4 Rachel Cosier (Bryn H) 39; 5 Olivia McCormack (Bryn H) 38; 9 Georgia Stevens (Bryn H) 36; 10 Niamh Gallagher (Cow) 35; 17 Hannah Woodward (Cow) 31; 26 Ellis Auclas (St Cyres) 28. Speed Bounce: 4= Izzy Eddy-Williams (Cow) 70; 19= Kirsty Hogg (St Cyres) 64; 24= Chelsea Hutchin (Bryn H) 62; 24= Olivia Brown (Cow) 62; 31= Chelsea Roxberry (Bryn H) 60; 35= Georgia Lougher (Bryn H) 59; 44= Olivia McCormack (Bryn H) 55; 44= Tillie Carter (Bryn H) 55; 51 Fatena Rahman (St Cyres) 26. Shot: 3 Hannah Woodward (Cow) 6.10; 9 Ellis Auclas (St Cyres) 5.30; 10 Niamh Gallagher (Cow) 5.20; 26 Lauren Eveleigh (Bryn H) 4.00; 28 Lauren Seviour (Bryn H) 3.40.

Vale golfers enjoy delights of new venue

Kevin Latham and Phil Mason with winner Clive Thomas and runner-up Coun Raymond Thomas.

THE monthly meeting of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society was held last Thursday at St Andrews Major golf club, near Barry.

This was a new venue for the 30 society members, all competing for the many excellent prizes supplied by the day's sponsors Hire One Ltd.

Despite the wet conditions, Llantwit Major farmer Clive Thomas scored a very impressive 39 stableford points to take first prize, with neighbouring farmer, Coun Raymond Thomas, taking second place with 35 points.

John Caines and Godfrey Lewis with 34 points, finished third and fourth respectively.

Phil Mason won the guest section with 36 points, and Kevin Latham finished second with 33 points.

The 'James the Butcher' sponsored longest drive was won by Tim Jarvis, while nearest the pin on the par three holes were Keith Wilding, Tony McCarthy, Kevin Latham and Brian Jones.

Chris Rooney correctly guessed 52 golf balls would fail to return home to win the 'Premier Turf' sponsored lost ball sweep that resulted in £50 being raised for Kidney Research Wales.

The society's next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 29 on the Button course at Cottrell Park Golf Club when members will be competing for the Gaskell & Walker sponsored Walker Cup.

On the same day, members are also looking forward to welcoming David Harris to the over-50s club and to the champagne reception that popular member David is hosting.

TMcC

Rhoose bowlers see new green installed

Left to right: Paul Williams, bowls captain, Bert Ewers, bowls club president, John Wathes, bowls club chairman, Coun Gordon Kemp, Coun Jeffery James and Phil Beaman.

RHOOSE Bowling Club, which reaches its 20th anniversary this year, has an additional reason to celebrate as a new surface has been installed thanks to the Vale Council.

Through the council's visible services asset renewal programme, £34,400 was provided to install a new surface of carpet and underlay to replace the club's existing artificial green.

Although the original surface was lasting well, its age was beginning to show, particularly in the need for frequent cleaning and running repairs. It had been there for nearly 20 years, with a life expectancy of just 10 years.

Coun Gordon Kemp, Leader of the council and a local ward member, said: "I'm pleased that the club has had a replacement surface installed which will attract new members to use this facility and meet new people with similar interests."

Welsh shooting team on target for Games

ABOVE: The Welsh medal haul.

TEAM WALES' shooting stars are aiming high in this year's Commonwealth Games – with their latest tournament in Delhi keeping them bang on target.

Twenty-one triumphant shooters recently returned from India where they took part in the Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championship (CSFC). They finished equal second in the overall medal table and outright second in the individual table, winning four gold, two silver and seven bronze medals. Hosts India topped the table.

The Welsh team has been training for the Commonwealth Games on the South Wales Police firearms range at Waterton Cross, Bridgend.

Charlotte's Ledbury win

by BRIAN LEE

CHARLOTTE PRICHARD (14), a member of the Pentyrch Hunt Pony Club, riding her five-year-old chestnut mare *Peateaoh*, won the 14hh pony race at the Ledbury Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Maisemore Park on Sunday.

The win was some consolation for Charlotte as in her previous race at Erw Lon, *Peateaoh* had slipped up when looking all over a winner.

Earlier in the season, they were successful at the Vine and Craven Hunt races.

Charlotte's older brother David (18), was also in fine form, winning a division of the maiden race on Phil Dando's homebred *Autumn Haze* who was appearing on a racecourse for the first time.

Autumn Haze was a comfortable winner from *Amatara*, the only other finisher in a field of 16 runners. *Autumn Haze*, who went off a 9-1 chance, is owned and trained by Peterston-super-Ely farmer Phil Dando and is a half-brother to his *Bella Haze*, a winner of three of its last four races under rules.

Nigel Westall memorial fixture won by Pencoed

SULLY Sports youth became apprentice BP Vets recently for the Nigel Westall memorial fixture, where they hosted Pencoed youth.

Pencoed took an early lead with two quick tries, and while Sports rallied, they failed to take advantage of a sustained period of pressure on the visitors' five metre line.

The half time change around saw the Sports increase the pace and quick scores put them back in the driving seat.

In the final quarter changes were made to ensure that the whole squad played their part, which probably cost the Sports the victory, but the day was not about the result.

The after match social was as important as the game and the celebrations were as entertaining as the game.

Try scorers: Harry Moyle, Adam Wheeler and Dan Stewart.

Final score 19-25 to Pencoed, many thanks to Pencoed and Glyn the referee.

JM

Barry Island turns out for Sport Relief mile

ABOVE: Runners of all abilities took part in the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile at Barry Island.

HUNDREDS of runners came together at Barry Island on Sunday, March 21, to take part in the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile, organised locally by the Vale Council's events team as part of Sport Relief.

Sport Relief brings together the worlds of sport and entertainment to raise money for vulnerable people in the UK as well as the world's poorest countries.

With Barry Island looking its sunny best and with the resort packed with people supporting their families, friends and neighbours, the scene was set for a fantastic day at the seaside.

Vale Council events officer Michael Chubb, said: "You could tell as soon as the runners started arriving that it was going to be a good day.

"There was a full range of running abilities and ages present, from babies propelled in their pushchairs to Lycra-clad professionals.

"Some were in it for fun - such as inflatable sumo wrestlers and two men sharing the same pair of trousers - to serious runners. There was a great family atmosphere too as friends and family met up and old friendships were renewed. I'm glad that we were able to be a part of this great national event and help with raising money for Sport Relief."

The oldest runner was Dinas Powys resident Derek Griffiths, aged 74, who was celebrating his 170th charity run!

Derek said: "I have run the London Marathon and two Cardiff marathons in my time but it was lovely to make Barry my 170th. The race has been very well organised and I'll definitely run again next year - I'll make it my 171st outing."

More information on Sport Relief is available at www.sportrelief.com.

Llantwit fencers in search of precious metals

THE Llantwit Major Fencing club has reformed after a two-year gap.

The club coach Gordon Kingston (aged 72), decided to come out of retirement after previously being chairman of Welsh Fencing and running a very successful club for more than 35 years.

There are six members at the moment, all under 12 years old. He is assisted by his son Matthew Kingston, who retired as a successful international fencer four years ago.

Since Christmas, the club members have entered two Welsh championships with great success. The first was the Welsh youth foil championships, in which Jack Cafaro was the gold medalist in the under- 12s foil, Heulwen Hill a bronze medalist in the under-12s foil, and Menna Hill a bronze medalist in the under-10s foil.

Luisa Cafaro fenced with great spirit and determination but a distracting administrative mistake led to her initially expending energy fencing fencers above her age group.

Last weekend, Llantwit Major Fencing club was represented in the senior Welsh foil championships by brothers Matthew and Mark Kingston, both of whom have been past Welsh champions and fenced for Wales at Commonwealth level, where they gained silver and bronze team medals.

Both fenced with great style, technique, and commitment, and reached the final four where Matthew gained the silver medal place and Mark the bronze, both losing to top ranked Welsh international Jason Scourfield from Bristol Fencing Club.

Their only disappointment was that they did not meet each other in the final for first place, but they clearly enjoyed the experience having not fenced or trained seriously for sometime.

For their father, the Llantwit coach Gordon, it was a rewarding experience to see that they can still make the grade.

AK

School host touring Canadian rugby team

THIS weekend will see Cowbridge senior rugby squad host 32 Canadians from Streetsville, Ontario.

The tourists have arranged a two-week tour of the UK finishing with a weekend stop in Wales. As well as playing a match on Friday evening against the school, the Canadians will also experience a tour of the Millennium Stadium as well as having a coaching session with the Newport Gwent Dragons.

The school would also like to extend a very special thank you to the Bear Hotel in Cowbridge for their help and assistance with the organisation of this tour – your support is greatly appreciated.

Vale 7s

The school's 7s season got off to a flying start as Cowbridge Comprehensive finished runners-up in the year-11 competition and winners in the year-7, 8, 9, 10 and senior tournaments respectively.

Year-11: Captain James Williams was the standout player for the year-11 squad who opened up with a very hard fought 25-15 loss to current Welsh 7s champions Bro Morgannwg.

Victories were then secured over Llantwit Major, Barry and Stanwell.

Lewis Hopkins showed some good qualities up front and Sam Street used his pace to run in a brace of tries.

The final was a rematch against a very strong Bro Morgannwg, who stepped up the intensity to gain a comfortable 45-12 win. Year-11 will now go to Rosslyn Park a far more experienced and better prepared side as a result of this tournament.

Seniors: Coming fresh from winning the Llanhari 7s tournament at the start of the week, the senior side started the Vale 7s with a classy 50-5 win over Barry.

Captain Tom Howson used the full bench to give much-needed rest to key players in the squad. It was a big bonus for the school to see Adam Wood return from injury, even though the school has lost one of its best 7s players, Rhys Allin, to injury at the Llanhari tournament.

Next up for the seniors was a tough game against Stanwell, and in a game full of errors and mistakes, the school edged to a very scrappy 28-24 win.

The third group game saw the school face 2010 Welsh Schools league winners Bro Morgannwg in a very difficult tie.

Having confidence that they would have the ability to win the remaining group games, the school rested key players for this game to conserve valuable energy.

Bro Morgannwg eased to a comfortable 45-5 win and looked dead certs to win the tournament.

In the final group game, Cowbridge beat Llantwit Major comfortably to set up a rematch with Bro Morganwg in the final.

With a fairly fresh and full strength team, Cowbridge started the final well with a score from Tom Harrison, while Nick Davies battled through injury and looked like a top class 7s player.

Reuben Tucker, Russ Watkins and Adam Wood worked well up front and tackled well in defence, Fred White also looked sharp.

Bro Morgannwg fought back instantly and scored two quick tries to edge into a 14-7 lead before Cowbridge levelled things with a try from Tom Howson.

With seconds remaining, Tom Howson broke from the back of a scrum and found Nick Davies with a nice pop pass, who scored under the posts to secure a great win for the school.

Captain Tom Howson was really pleased and proud of his team, who became the only Welsh side to beat this Bro Morganwg team in 7s in several years.

Well done boys!

Exiles overcome Legends in memorial tournament

CADOXTON IMPS AFC recently held their annual Edwin 'Eddie' Mallett seniors 5-a-side football fun tournament in memory of former treasurer Eddie Mallett, who was with the Imps for more than 30 years and who sadly passed away in 2008 after a valiant struggle against prostate cancer.

This was the second time that the Imps have run the tournament, but this year it was held for the first time at the Gol Centre, Leckwith on the new 'state of the art' 3G surface.

The invited teams consisted of representative teams from the Imps' current senior teams in the Vale of Glamorgan Association Football League together with invited teams of past players/managers including the current Dinas Ladies team, led by ex Imps manager and committee member Neil Cordy, and with some of his ex Imps girl players.

The format consisted of two groups of four teams with the teams playing against each team in their respective group and then the top two from each group qualifying for the semi-finals.

Surprise of the tournament was the team of current committee members and managers led by chairman Martin Pursall, secretary Gary Spierling, vice-chairman Ian James, plus managers Andrew Smith, Peter Bowden and Neil Copner who, against all the odds, reached the semi-finals!

Sadly, the committee team lost out to the Leigh Cogbill 'Legends', a strong team of ex-players from the Imps' Premier League-topping team of a few years back and who won the inaugural tournament last season.

In the other semi-final, the two Martin James 'Exiles' teams of ex Imps players, mostly from Martin's incredibly successful ex-Imps team fought it out among themselves to see who would reach the final to try to stop the Legends taking the title for the second time in a row.

The final was of a very high standard and both teams were evenly matched.

With the scores all level at 2-2 and only a few minutes to go, the tension at the pitchside was unbearable, as the committee struggled to decide whether the final would have to go to extra time, penalties, golden goal or for the trophy to be shared!

Fortunately for the committee, that decision did not have to be made as the Exiles scored a late winner and hung on under pressure to see them become this year's champions.

The committee would like to thank managers Alan Smith and Arthur Thompson for refereeing all the games; Ian James for the arrangements; Dinas Powys Ladies plus Ross and Mike for putting together an extra scratch team at the last minute; Imps Division 2 team for their usual solid support of events; Gol Centre for the use of the facilities and Peter Wakeham at Len Ashurst Trophies for the medals.

MP

Slow start in first Grand Prix

THE 2010 Petanque Grand Prix Series organised by the Welsh Petanque Association (WPA) took place at Panteg when 17 teams competed all day.

By the end of April the results will determine the team representing Wales in the World Championship in Taiwan in September, as well as the teams that will represent Wales in the Home Nations competition in August (Top 8) and at the British Inter-Region Championship in September (Top 12).

One full Triple team from Penarth Petanque Club and two mixed teams (Penarth/Caerleon-Wheatsheaf and Penarth/Cardiff-Monkstone) took part in the first round of matches and battled against the best of the Welsh teams.

The overall results for the Penarth team were encouraging with the team finishing 11th.

The Penarth team (Laurent Mirbelle, Jean-Yves Robic, David Elston, Tony Smith) started the day with two defeats 7-13 against Abergavenny and 12-13 against Brecon 2.

The third and final game of the morning session saw a reversal of fortune for the Penarth players as they inflicted a severe 13-0 win over the Caerleon-Wheatsheaf ladies team.

Unfortunately, the afternoon session started with a narrow defeat 11-13 against the Caerleon-Helmets, followed by 2-13 defeat to Caerleon 1.

The last game of the day permitted Penarth to make it two wins with a well-fought 13-12 victory over the Monkstone Marauders.

The other Penarth players involved in mixed team had a better day. Derek Jones is currently ranked second with five wins out of six and Scott Murray fifth with four wins out of six.

Pupils crowned 'top dodgers'

TEENAGERS from six Vale secondary schools have been ducking and diving their way to sporting success at a county-wide dodgeball tournament.

The action-packed competition at the Colcot Sports Centre in Barry saw boys from Barry Comprehensive School and girls from Llantwit Major Comprehensive School crowned as the Vale's top dodgers, in a tournament organised as part of the 5x60 scheme. The event was also used to mark Sport Relief, raising more than £100 for charity.

The 5x60 initiative creates a range of fun extra-curricular activities, encouraging pupils to stop dodging exercise and get active for at least 60 minutes, five days a week.

To find out more about the 5x60 scheme in the Vale of Glamorgan please contact the Vale Council's sports and play development manager Karen Davies by calling 01446 704793 or by going online at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/5x60.

Testimonial golf day winners

COTTRELL Park Golf Resort recently hosted Jason Stones' testimonial golf day, which started off damp but soon cleared and remained dry for the 17 teams who took part.

The format of the day was a Texas Scramble playing the Button Gwinnett Course. The winning team consisted of Gavin and Alan Ware, David Corby and Cardiff Devils player, Scott Romfo. Mark Hegarty won the nearest the pin Competition on the 16th hole and Daryll Roberts had the longest drive on the 5th hole.

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07 Meriva 1400 Life 5dr in Star Silver, 10,500 miles £6995
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58 Meriva 1.3 CDTi Life Lancelot 7000 miles £9295
58 Meriva 1.6 Design 16000 miles in blue £9299

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05 Signum 1.9 150 Design in Sapphire Black, 39,000 miles £5995
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54 Ford StreetKa Luxury 1600 Convertible in Silver, leather interior, 37,000 miles £5995
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06 **56 BMW 318CI M Sport Convertible** in sapphire Black with full ebony leather interior, electric memory seats, cruise control, multi function steering wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, rear parking sensors, only 37,060 miles **£15,995**

06 **56 BMW 2.0TD 320D SE 4-dr Saloon.** In Arctic grey with anthracite interior, automatic air con, upgraded alloy wheels, rear parking sensors, only 41,655 miles, fsh **£13,995**

06 **56 BMW 116i SE 5-dr** in sparkling graphite met with full Boston beige leather interior, comfort pack, cd, climate control, alloy wheels, reversing sensors, auxiliary I-pod connection, only 19,950 miles interior titanium trim, auto lights and auto wipers **£11,995**

05 **55 BMW X5 3.0D Automatic Sport 5-Dr Station Wagon.** In sparkling graphite with black leather interior, automatic air con, sat nav, roof rails, 20" alloy wheels, front and rear parking sensors, only 65,660 miles **£19,995**

05 **05 BMW X5 3.0D Automatic Sport 5-Dr Station Wagon.** In sparkling graphite with black leather interior, 19" alloy wheels, air con, CD, front /rear parking sensors, privacy glass, only 52,290 miles **£17,995**

05 **05 MERCEDES Benz 1.8 SLK 200 Compressor Auto 2-dr Convertible** in Tellur silver, black leather interior, climate control, multi function steering wheel, CD, alloys, only 61,000 miles, fsh **£16,995**

05 **05 MERCEDES Benz M-Class 2.7 TD ML270 CDi Automatic 5-dr Station Wagon.** In Brilliant silver with Orion grey leather interior, climate control, Bluetooth phone prep, privacy glass, heated seats, rear parking sensors, only 52,975 miles **£15,995**

04 **54 MERCEDES Benz CL500 5 litre 2-dr Auto coupe.** In tanzanite blue with java leather interior with BOSE sound system, AMG body styling, electric sunroof, only 48,245 miles **£19,995**

01 **51 JAGUAR S-Type 3.0 V6 4-dr Saloon Automatic.** In Pacific blue with cashmere beige full leather interior, climate control, CD, electric seats, rear parking sensors, only 55,810 miles **£5,995**

SPORTS

07 **57 HYUNDAI Coupe 2.0 SIII** in steel grey with full red leather interior, climate control, sunroof, cruise control, alloy wheels, only 23,600 miles **£10,495**

07 **07 SEAT Leon 2.0TDi DPF FR 5-Dr Hatchback.** In black magic with FR grey interior, cruise control, air con, traction control system, ESP, only 36,598 miles **£13,495**

06 **56 HONDA Civic 1.8i V-tec Type-S 3-dr Hatchback.** In alabaster silver with alcantara/suede interior, climate control, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 24,405 miles **£10,495**

06 **56 SAAB 9-3 1.9 Tid (150bhp) Vector 4-Dr Saloon Automatic.** In steel grey with half leather seats, steering wheel mounted gear change, climate control, rear parking sensors, in dash multi CD, only 46,905 miles **£8,995**

06 **06 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GT TDi 2.0 (140) 5-dr** in steel grey with dark interior, cd, dual climate control, cruise control, alloy wheels, electric mirrors, only 58,300 miles **£9,995**

06 **06 FORD Focus 1.8TDCi Sport 5-dr Hatchback.** In panther black with dark flint interior, CD, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 55,315 miles **£7,495**

06 **55 AUDI A3 2.0T FSi 5-dr Sport Back** in Avus silver with matrix cloth interior. BOSE speaker system, 17 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, climate conrol, cd, only 39,280 miles **£11,995**

05 **05 MINI 1.6 Cooper S (Chilli Pack).** Black, black leather interior, a/c, alloys, cd, rear parking sensors, only 49,390 miles **£10,995**

04 **04 PORSCHE Carrera 3.6 Convertible** in lapis blue with metropole leather, bose speaker upgrade, starlight navigation, phone system, cruise control, trip computer, heated seats, sports exhaust systemm, full Porsche service history, hard top, only 42,761 miles **£29,995**

04 **54 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GTi 2.0T FSi (200ps) 3-dr.** In reflex silver with interlagos interior, climate control, traction control, tyre pressure monitor, trip computer, sports seats, alloy wheels, only 69,192 miles **£9,995**

04 **54 VAUXHALL Tigra Convertible 1.8 Sport** in Kingfisher blue with anthracite interior, electric roof, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 62,840 miles **£6,395**

04 **54 MG TF 1.8 135 Convertible.** In ignition blue with anthracite Sebring interior, alloy wheels, cd player, alarm and immobiliser only 27,100 miles **£4,995**

04 **04 RENAULT Clio 182 Sport 3-dr Hatchback.** In met blue with half leather/suede interior, sports seats, traction control, cruise control, climate control, alloys, 6 cd auto changer, only 51,314 miles **£5,995**

04 **04 CITROEN C2 1.6 VTR Sensodrive** in arctic steel silver with neutron mesh interior, paddle shift, alloy wheels, air con, colour coded bumpers, rear spoiler, cd, only 62,100 miles **£4,295**

04 **53 LAND ROVER Freelander 1.8S 3-Dr Hard Top.** In Bonatti grey with black dune interior, glass roof panels, air con, alarm, traction control system, only 54,460 miles **£5,495**

03 **53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-door Convertible.** In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles **£4,495**

02 **02 MG ZS 2.5 180.** In anthracite black, with monaco ash interior with red inserts, alloy wheels, a/c, cd, colour coded bumpers, front fogs, alarm and immobiliser, only 62,310 miles **£2,995**

02 **51 ..HONDA S2000 Roadster 2.0i Vtec (Cat 1 Alarm)** In Berlina Black with full red leather interior, air con, CD, alloy wheels, electric roof, glass rear screen, one owner only, 20,510 miles **£9,995**

01 **Y AUDI TT Roadster 1.8T Quattro (225)** in met silver with full granite leather, 18" alloy wheels, heated seats, trip computer, cruise control + climate control, cd multi-changer with BOSE stereo upgrade, only 63,583 miles.. **£8,495**

00 **X PORSCHE Boxster 3.2S** in basalt black with full black leather, upgraded 18 inch sport design alloy wheels, heated seats, cd with i-pod connection, wind deflector, colour coded hardtop, fsh, only 73,813 miles **£10,995**

99 **T BMW Z3 1.9 2-dr Convertible.** In Green with green leather interior, colour coded bumpers, CD, alloy wheels, electric hood, wind deflector, only 51,743 miles **£5,995**

FAMILY

06 **56 TOYOTA Corolla T2 Colour Collection, 1.4 5-dr Hatchback.** In eclipse black with silver fleck interior, a/c, alloys, colour coded side skirts, audio controls on steering wheel, one owner, only 32,415 miles **£7,995**

05 **55 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique** in met platinum silver with ruche cloth interior, auto lights, auto wipers, air con, cd, clour coded bumpers, only 16,380 miles **£5,795**

05 **05 VW Bora 1.9 TDi Highline 4-Dr Saloon.** In black with beige leather interior, air con, heated seats, rear parking sensors, cruise control, only 57,655 miles **£7,495**

05 **05 HONDA Civic 1.7 CDTi** in magnetic blue with hatch fabric interior, alloy wheels, air con, cd, colour coded bumpers, only 55,130 miles **£6,495**

05 **05 FORD Focus 1.6 115 Zetec Climate.** In moondust silver with rack ebony interior, alloy wheels, climate control, CD, quick clear windscreen, one owner, only 42,055 miles **£5,995**

04 **54 MG ZT-T 1.8T 160 5-dr Estate** in royal blue with Monaco ash leather interior, air con, alloy wheels, roof rails, alarm, only 32,000 miles **£5,995**

04 **04 TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 VVTi T-Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon.** Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles **£6,495**

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02 **02 DAEWOO Nubria 1.6 SE Saloon.** In ebony black with light interior, a/c, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, remote central locking, only 26,971 miles **£1,995**

01 **Y BMW 3 Series 1.9i 316 4-dr Saloon.** In bright red with dark interior, electric windows, colour coded bumpers, driver and passenger airbags, only 49,125 miles **£4,295**

SMALL

09 **09 CHEVROLET Aveo LT 1.4** in pearl black with bricket cloth, aircon, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, alarm and immobiliser, cd, only 16,900 miles **£6,995**

08 **58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v Design (A/C).** 5 door in ice blue with dark interior, air con, MP3 input, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, only 19,950 miles **£8,495**

08 **58 TOYOTA Yaris 1.0 VVT-I T2 5-dr Hatchback.** In crystal silver, electric windows and mirrors, CD, multi-function steering wheel, only 3,725 miles **£7,995**

07 **07 RENAULT Clio Dynamique 1.4 5-dr Hatchback** in silver with black interior, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, fog lights, only 37,550 miles **£6,995**

06 **56 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 VVTI T3 3-dr** in eclipse black with Picardie cloth interior, a/con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers and privacy glass, remote central locking, alarm and immobiliser, cd, only 30,305 miles **£6,495**

06 **06 FORD Fiesta Zetec 5-dr** in panther black with dark interior, alloy wheels, air con, colour ceded bumpers, f ront fogs, only 18,131 miles **£5,995**

06 **06 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback.** In platinum silver with grey interior, alloy wheels, steering wheel mounted audio controls, colour coded bumpers, CD, only 19,860 miles **£5,995**

06 **55 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v Dynamique (A/C) 3-Dr Hatchback.** In capsicum red with black interior, 16" Canasta alloy wheels, electric sunroof, air con, CD, only 30,800 miles **£5,695**

05 **05 MINI 1.6 One (salt) 3-dr Hatchback.** In pure silver with anthracite interior, 6 CD changer, automatic dipping rear-view mirror, panoramic roof, body coloured bumpers, only 39,600 miles **£7,995**

04 **04 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Cabriolet 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cdm alloy wheels, alarm, only 43,895 miles **£6,495**

04 **04 FORD Fiesta 1.4 SILVER Limited Edition.** In moondust silver with full midnight black leather, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, cd, only 29,775 miles **£4,995**

04 **04 ROVER Streetwise 1.4 16v 3-dr** in trophy yellow with sebring half leather interior, cd, roof rails, rear spoiler, alarm and immobiliser, only 41,590 miles **£3,495**

02 **02 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 Coupe Cabriolet S 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 64,220 miles **£5,495**

02 **52 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique 3-dr Hatchback** in met silver with dark interior, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 48,060 miles **£3,495**

01 **51 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Cabriolet SE 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, digital climate control, cd, 16 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, only 46.010 miles **£3,995**

02 51 HONDA S2000 Roadster 2.0i Vtec (Cat 1 Alarm) In Berlina Black with full red leather interior, air con, CD, alloy wheels, electric roof, glass rear screen, one owner only, 20,510 miles **£9,995**

00 X PORSCHE Boxster 3.2S in basalt black with full black leather, upgraded 18 inch sport design alloy wheels, heated seats, cd with i-pod connection, wind deflector, colour coded hardtop, fsh, only 73,813 miles **£10,995**

04 04 TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 VVTi T-Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon. Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles **£6,495**

06 56 BMW 2.0TD 320D SE 4-dr Saloon. In Arctic grey with anthracite interior, automatic air con, upgraded alloy wheels, rear parking sensors, only 41,655 miles, fsh **£13,995**

06 56 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 VVTI T3 3-dr in eclipse black with Picardie cloth interior, a/con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers and privacy glass, remote central locking, alarm and immobiliser, cd, only 30,305 miles **£6,495**

09 09 CHEVROLET Aveo LT 1.4 in pearl black with bricket cloth, aircon, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, alarm and immobiliser, cd, only 16,900 miles **£6,995**

03 53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-door Convertible. In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles **£4,495**

04 54 MG TF 1.8 135 Convertible. In ignition blue with anthracite Sebring interior, alloy wheels, cd player, alarm and immobiliser only 27,100 miles.. ..... **£4,995**

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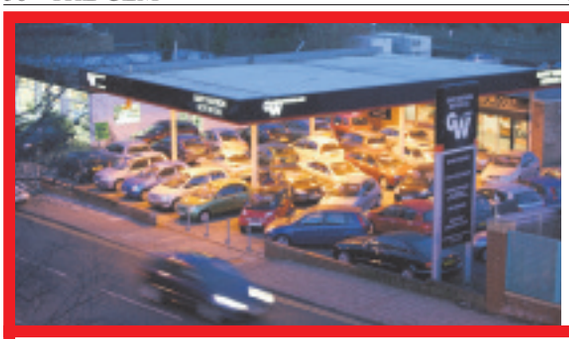

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06	**MINI 1.6 Convertible.** In black, 35,000 miles, fun for the summer at	**£9,995**
04	**VW Beetle 2.0 Convertible.** In red, 47,000 miles, 1 owner, 4 seater convertible	**£8,995**
03	**AUDI TT 180.** In met blue with black leather trim, 74,000 miles	**£8,995**
56	**RENAULT Megane 2.0 Convertible.** In met blue, 31,000 miles, 4-seater convertible at	**£7,995**
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05	**RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique CC.** In silver, 43,000 miles, 4 seater convertible at	**£6,995**
04	**JEEP Cherokee CRD.** In met blue, low mileage go anywhere diesel at	**£6,995**
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R	**MERCEDES SLK 230 Auto.** In green black with two tone leather trim, great value Mercedes Convertible at	**£4,995**
52	**PEUGEOT 206 CC 2.0 SE.** In silver with black leather trim, 57,000 miles, 4-seater convertible	**£4,995**
02	**TOYOTA Corolla T-Sport 3-dr.** In champagne metallic, 63,000 miles, 1 local owner, FSH **REDUCED BY £300 TO**	**£3,995**
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07	**SUZUKI Swift 1.5 GLX 5-dr.** In black, 13.000 miles, high specification model at	**£6,995**
07	**PEUGEOT 207 1.4S 5-dr.** In black, low mileage, 1 owner hatch.	**£6,995**
07	**RENAULT Laguna 2.0 DCi 150 Expression 5-Dr.** In met. Blue, 32,000 miles, 1 owner, with sat nav etc.	**£6,995**
56	**FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec Climate Automatic 3-dr.** In black, 12,000 miles, superb value at	**£6,995**
07	**FIAT Grande Punto 1.4 Dynamique Sport Automatic.** Met blue, 23,000 miles **REDUCED BY £500 TO**	**£6,495**
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56	**FORD Focus 1.4LX 5-dr.** In electric blue, 30,000 miles with a/c, cd, etc	**£6,495**
56	**PEUGEOT 307 1.6S 5-Dr.** In black, low mileage example with alloys, a/c, etc, ideal family hatch.	**£6,295**
57	**PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Look 3-dr.** In diablo red, 24,000 miles, under manufacturer warranty **REDUCED BY £300 TO**	**£5,995**
04	**TOYOTA Corrolla 2.0 D4D T3 5-dr.** In silver, 54,000 mile diesel with sat-nav	**£5,995**
04	**VOLVO S60 2.4 D5 SE.** In met silver birch, 63,000 miles, high specification diesel at	**£5,995**
55	**PEUGEOT 407 2.0 HDi SE.** In met grey, 51,000 miles, comfortable stylish diesel at **REDUCED BY £500 TO**	**£5,495**
55	**NISSAN Primara 2.0 SX 5-dr.** In silver, 35,000 miles with sat-nav, alloys, etc	**£5,495**
08	**FIAT Panda 1.1 Active.** In met-blue, 15,000 miles with cd etc, under FIAT warranty	**£4,995**
55	**MITSUBISHI Colt 1.5Di - D Equipe 3-dr.** IN met-grey 41,000 miles, diesel hatch	**£4,995**
54	**RENAULT Megane VVTi Privilage Automatic 5-dr.** Met jade, half leather trim, low mileage.. **REDUCED BY £500 TO**	**£4,995**
05	**PEUGEOT 206 1.6 Quiksilver 3-dr.** 31,000 miles, sought-after limited edition model **REDUCED BY £500 TO**	**£4,995**
06	**CHEVROLET Kalos 1.4 Sport 3-dr.** In black, with black leather trim, 37,000 miles	**£4,695**
02	**PEUGEOT 206cc 20.** In met-blue with black leather trim, 58,000 mile convertible at	**£4,695**
04	**FORD Fiesta 1.4 Flame.** In electric blue, low mileage example with alloys, cd, etc.	**£4,495**
04	**FORD Fiesta 1.4 Silver 3-Dr.** 62,000 miles with full leather trim, A/C, CD etc.	**£4,495**
04	**FORD Focus 1.6 Edge 5-dr.** In light met-blue, low mileage example with alloys, a/c, etc.	**£4,495**
06	**FORD Ka 1.3 Collection.** In Apple green, 23,000 miles with decals **REDUCED BY £800 TO**	**£3,995**
05	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Twin Port SXi.** In met silver, 48,000 miles, 1 local owner **REDUCED BY £1000 TO**	**£3,995**
03	**VAUXHALL Astra 1.6SXi 5-dr.** In black, 61,000 miles, ideal family hatch at	**£3,295**
04	**FIAT Punto 1.2 Active 3-dr.** In met-red, low running cost hatch at	**£2,995**
51	**RENAULT Clio 2.0 Sport 172.** In met-red, very nice example at	**£2,995**
04	**DAEWOO Tacuma 1.6 Extra.** In met red, 78,000 miles, with cd, alloys etc.	**£2,795**
02	**CITROEN Saxo 1.6 VTR.** In black, host of extras, group 7 insurance.	**£2,495**

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07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campus, grey met, 39k miles

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07 07 MAZDA RX8 4-dr (231), met black, 29k

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03 53 VW Passat 2.0 S 4-dr, met blue, 74k

Finance example

Amount of credit: £4975.00
35 Monthly payments of £163.06
Final payment of £462.06
Total charge for credit £1194.16
Total amount payable £6169.16
Weekly equivalent £39.55

APR 14.82%

*Photos are indicative only

Small Cars

03 03 FIAT Punto 1.2 Active 5dr. Blue met, 47k miles, rcl, pas, e/w, cd **£3,275**
02 02 SUZUKI Wagon R 1.3 GL Special 5dr. Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, a/c, e/w, alloys **£3,475**
02 52 PEUGEOT 206 1.1 Met blue, 68k miles **£3,475**
05 05 CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE+ 5-dr. Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, ew, pas, cd **£3,965**
03 53 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi 16v 5-Dr. Met blue, 65k miles **£3,975**
03 03 HONDA Jazz 1.4 Dsi SE Auto, silver met, 66k miles, rcl, ew, cd **£4,475**
05 54 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 3-dr. Silver, met, 58k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd **£4,475**
06 56 HYUNDAI 1.4 Getz GSi 3-dr. Black, met, 15k miles, rcl, ew, pas, cd **£4,975**
07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campus 5-dr, grey met, 39k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd **£5,775**
04 04 FORD StreetKa 1.6 Luxury. Met black, 49k . . **£5,975**
04 54 TOYOTA Yaris VVTi 3-Dr 1.3. Met blue, 17k miles only, alloys **£5,975**
06 06 VAUXHALL Agila 1.2 16v Enjoy 5dr. Met purple, 12k miles rcl,pas,ew,cd **£5,975**
07 07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Life (a/c) 3-dr, grey met, 26k miles, rcl, pas, cd, ew **£6,475**
08 08 FORD KA 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-Dr. In white, 9,000 miles **£6,475**
07 07 CITROEN C3 1.4 Desire 5-dr. Met black, cd, a/c, pas, 12k miles **£6,975**
07 07 RENAULT clio 1.4 Dynamique 3-dr hatch. Silver met, 24k miles, a/c, rcl, ew, pas, alloys **£6,975**

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03 53 VW Passat 2.0 S 4-dr. Met. blue, 74k miles, many extras **£3,975**
05 05 RENAULT Megane 1.4 Rush 3-dr Silver met, 53k miles, alloys, rcl, a/c, cd **£4,475**
05 05 HYUNDAI Sonata 2.4 Auto Saloon, 4-dr, Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, ew, cd, cruise, full leather **£4,975**
05 05 FORD Focus 1.8 TDCi Zetec 3-Dr. Met blue, 76k miles, fully loaded **£4,975**
04 54 TOYOTA Corolla 1.6 T3 Auto Met blue,48k . . **£6,475**
06 56 CITROEN Picasso 1.6 HDi TURBO DIESEL. Met red, 36k miles, pas, a/c **£6,975**
07 07 FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Dynamic 5dr. Met blue, e windows, rcl, 5k miles **£6,975**
07 07 PEUGEOT 307 Hdi 90SE TURBO DIESEL. Green/grey met, 38k miles, alloys, rcl, ew, cd, a/c **£7,975**
09 58 CITROEN C2 1.4VTR Met black, 9k miles . . . **£7,975**

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04 53 MGTF 1.8 135 CONVERTIBLE. Silver met, 31k miles, alloys, rcl, e/w, pas **£4,975**
05 05 CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.8 Sport. Met. black, 55k miles, fully loaded **£4,975**
04 54 RENAULT Megane 1.9 DCi 3dr (120bhp) Dynamique TURBO DIESEL. 60k miles, panoramic roof, rcl, a/c, e/w **£5,475**
05 54 VAUXHALL Vectra 1.9 CDTi SRI AUTO 5dr. Met blue, alloys, a/c, fsh **£5,975**
04 04 TOYOTA Celica VVTi. Met silver, 39k, S/H, sports pack, leather, sunroof, a/c **£7,475**
02 52 BMW 325ci Sport AUTO Coupe. Blue met, 72k miles, sand leather, alloys, a/c, rcl, cd **£7,975**
05 05 PEUGEOT 307 Convertible. Met silver, auto, 50k miles **£7,975**
04 04 MERCEDES SLK 200 Cabriolet AUTO Silver met, 59k miles, AMG Wheels, rcl, a/c, ew, must be seen . . . **£11,975**
04 04 MERCEDES SL 500 Cabriolet AUTO. Silver met, 82k miles, leather, alloys, climate, cd, ew, rcl **£19,975**
06 56 BMW 335D AUTO 2dr Coupe Turbo Diesel. Grey met, 28k miles, full leather, cd, ew, a/c, stunning car . . **£19,975**

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01 Y RENAULT Scenic 1.4 Authentique, mpv, silver met, 60k miles, rcl, ew. cd, a/c **£2,675**
04 04 HYUNDAI Matrix 1.8 CDX MPV. Silver met, full leather, rcl, ew, cd **£3,975**
04 04 FORD Galaxy 2.3 AUTO Ghia MPV. Met silver, 90k miles, rcl, a/c, alloys, cd, cruise **£5,975**
07 07 MAZDA RX8 4-dr (231) Met black, 29k miles **£9,975**

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06 56 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Life A/C AUTO 5dr. Panacotta, **only 4,900 miles**
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06 56 FORD Fusion 1.6 Zetec Climate 5dr. Red met, **only 2.000 miles**
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06 56 FORD Focus C-Max Zetec 2.0 AUTO 5dr. Met mintgreen, **only 4300 miles!**
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06 56 NISSAN Micra 1.2 Sport 5dr. Grey met, **only 2,500 miles**
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58 09 FORD Fusion 1.4 5dr Style AUTO. Red met, **only 1,000 miles!**
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06 56 FORD Fiesta 1.6 Style Climate AUTO. Blue met, **only 3,700 miles**
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06 56 FORD C-Max 2.0 Zetec AUTO MPV. Blue met, **only 4,500 miles**
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06 56 FORD Focus 1.6 Sport 5dr. Blue met, **only 5,600 miles**
New £13,975 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £6,500**
08 58 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 5dr. Blue met, **only 3,000 miles!**
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09 58 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 Life (A/C). Silver met, **only 741 miles**
New £12,975 **Ours £8,475** **Saving £4,500**
09 58 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2 5dr Hatch. Black met, **only 2,600 miles**
New £10,475 **Ours £8,475** **Saving £2,000**
08 08 HONDA Jazz 1.4 5dr SE. Blue met, **only 4,800 miles!**
New £11,475 **Ours £8,975** **Saving £2,500**
09 09 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 5dr Life. Silver met, **only 1,700 miles!**
New £14,975 **Ours £9,475** **Saving £5,500**
09 09 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 5dr club AUTO. Silver met, **only 400 miles!**
New £11,975 **Ours £9,475** **Saving £2,500**
09 09 CITROEN Berlingo 1.6 HDi 5dr VTR. Blue met, **only 2,200 miles!**
New £12,475 **Ours £9,975** **Saving £2,500**
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PROMOTION THREE YEARS IN A ROW!

Cowbridge A team win squash league in style!

COWBRIDGE A Bar 44 secured the South Wales Division Two East Championship with a convincing 5-0 result over bottom-placed Abercynon A – this was their third consecutive promotion.

The A team lads knew what was required from the fixture – eight points for promotion as runners-up, and 15 points to win the championship.

Simon Payne (No 5) and Richie Ford (No 4) set about this task with great gusto, only conceding nine points in total between them.

Payne dispatched veteran campaigner Chris Clark with a very business-like display, winning 3-0 easily (9-1, 9-1, 9-1), while Ford never allowed a very tricky opponent to get the upper hand and also turned in a comfortable 3-0 result (9-3, 9-3, 9-0).

This was a solid platform for Garfield Leask and Jon Bisson at Nos 3 and 2 respectively to build on. Leask also managed to post a 3-0 result against Peter Steed, but this was a much harder contest, with the middle game, going to a tie-break.

Bisson, however, appeared to be struggling with some shoulder trouble and fell behind twice before his legs carried him through to a 3-2 win (5-9, 9-6, 3-9, 9-3, 9-3).

This meant the championship was won before No 1 Nick Guard did battle with Haydn Jones – unfortunately for Jones, he had to retire part way through the second game with a foot problem – so literally the match limped to a close! (20-2 to Cowbridge).

Meanwhile, the B team Bar 44 took a weakened line-up to St Mellons D for a must-win fixture to assist their bid to avoid relegation from South Glamorgan Division One.

Simon Payne (No 1) and Steve Morris at No 2 saw the Bs off to a superb start, both winning 3-0. This was most commendable in Morris's case, as he had been out of action for the past six weeks with a torn calf.

Colin Baxter kept up his excellent form with a no-nonsense display at No 4, seeing off his opponent 9-4, 9-4, 9-0, a result that meant the match was won before Russ Watts (No 5) and Julian Jenkins (No 3) had finished.

However, these Bs were unable to record any more points for the team, with Jenkins still suffering from tennis elbow in his closely-contested match (7-9, 7-9, 7-9).

Watts, on the other hand, found himself on the receiving end of a total mis-match that had arisen out of some 'interesting' St Mellons team selection – the 'short-straw' was mentioned by his team mates! (13-6 to the Bs).

The Bs have one more chance to stave off relegation in a re-arranged home match with St Mellons (again), but are able to re-call regulars Paul Reynish (No 2) and Chris Ranger (No 4) to strengthen the team. A total of 14 points are required from the match to avoid the drop, and they could even finish third with a good win – this is a measure of how tight this league has been in this campaign.

The highlight of Cowbridge Cs at Fairwater B was a dazzling 3-0 win at No 2 by Dave Matthews. Sadly, he was the only points scorer for Cowbridge on the night (match result 3-16).

The Cs are now too far adrift to save themselves from Division Three squash next season, but there's always hope to bounce back at the first attempt.

New members are always welcome at the club – details from clive.prigg@btinternet.com or russ.watts@btopenworld.com

RUSS WATTS

Six of the best gets Town to Jenner Park cup final

COWBRIDGE Town FC will be creating a small piece of club history in two weeks when they walk out at Jenner Park in two after beating FC Pumas in the Dockers Cup semi-final at Rhoose on Saturday.

With the return of senior football to the town this summer, little was expected of a side cobbled together by managers Edward Jones and John Westwood.

Un-fancied but undaunted, Town have set about establishing themselves as the flagship side at the club and have now given everyone associated with Cowbridge football a day out to remember.

Town produced a performance full of grit and flair.

With a driving wind making conditions tricky, Cowbridge won the toss and elected to play against the elements.

Although pinned back for much of the opening exchanges, Cowbridge took the lead early after a flowing move was clinically finished off by striker Jack Gavin to rapturous appreciation by the watching faithful.

Things got better for Town soon after, as a speculative throw into the box produced enough of a nuisance to force a penalty decision following a push on Nic Vaile. Typically Jack Gavin stepped up to slide the ball coolly home to provide a welcome cushion.

The wind proved a substantial obstacle, however, and Town came under near constant pressure from their opponents for the remainder of the first half.

The pressure finally told as a speculative free kick drifted over everyone and nestled in the bottom corner of the Town net.

Buoyed by their goal FC Pumas pressed forwards but Town dug deep to see out the half. Knowing the tough part was over, Cowbridge visibly relaxed in the second half and began playing the brand of football which has now seen them record an unrivalled 10 wins in a row.

Sensing their superiority, Cowbridge began turning the screw and duly got their reward, as a Jack Gavin corner proved too difficult for the Pumas' defence to deal with as it drifted straight into the back corner.

Stirred by the goal, Town pushed to add three more goals in a relentless second half display with Lloyd Lewis grabbing a double and substitute Wyndham Howells floating in the sixth.

The win represents a major step in Cowbridge senior football, and with the final set for 2.15pm at Jenner Park, Barry on April 11 all at the club would encourage you to get down and support the boys.

Early lead but Cowbridge then slip up

ON a bright windy afternoon, Cowbridge First XV travelled to Dinas Powys looking for a morale-boosting win against the bottom-of-the-table team.

The Bridge were soon on the scoreboard with a well-taken penalty by centre Huw Lougher but the game descended into a scrappy affair for the next 25 minutes until it was lit up by a fine try from scrum-half Dewi Edwards.

A quick tap penalty between halfway and the 22 saw Dewi weave his way through the Dinas Powys defence to touch down for one of the tries of the season.

Cowbridge's elation was short-lived as, almost from the kick off, Dinas Powys scored under the post and easily converted.

A minute later, they were down to 14 men for 10 minutes but Cowbridge were unable to capitalise and went into half-time with a slender 7-8 lead.

Playing into the strengthening wind in the second half was always going to be tough for Cowbridge, and so it proved. After 10 minutes, a Dinas drop-goal attempt hit the post, Cowbridge were penalised as the ball bounced back into play, a quick tap and over they went for a second converted try.

Within two minutes, following a catalogue of errors, Cowbridge conceded a third try as Dinas stumbled over the line, and that was the end of the scoring.

Credit to Cowbridge, they never gave up, with captain Steve Birchenough leading by example, but with several first team players missing and Dinas using home knowledge of the wind and the slope to their advantage, this was a bitter pill to swallow.

Final score: Dinas Powys 21 Cowbridge 8.

This Saturday, we entertain Old Penarthians at the Athletic Field. The boys need all the support they get so come along and cheer them on in what is a crucial final month of the season

RV/RK

Cricket club prepares for 2010 season

PREPARATION for Cowbridge Cricket Club's forthcoming season is well underway. The well established 'Clubmark Accredited' Club, sponsored by The Bear Hotel, will again be running teams for all ages and abilities in 2010.

The First and Second XI will be playing in the South Wales Cricket Association-Division II, and the West Wales XI will play in the West Wales League.

In addition, the club will be running junior teams (under-11, under-13 and under-15) in the Cardiff and The Vale League and the National Knockout Cup.

The 1st XI will be captained by Tom Merilaht, the 2nd XI by newly appointed captain Jonty Webb and the West Wales XI by David Webb.

Pre-season training for those who played senior team cricket last summer takes place on Sunday mornings at 8:45am at Cowbridge Leisure Centre.

Any new players interested in joining the club are most welcome.

Following last year's success, a Junior Open Day will take place on Sunday, April 18, at 10:30am at the Athletic Ground followed by weekly coaching.

There will be registration, coaching by fully qualified ECB coaches, a barbecue and raffle. The bar will also be open for parents!

All juniors wishing to play cricket are most welcome to attend. The club is keen for all juniors to take part, whether boys or girls, experienced or beginners. Whatever age or ability, there is an opportunity to get involved.

Off the field, the club will be running a number of events during the summer to include the Annual Golf Day (May 25) and The President's Luncheon (August 1) so even those who have packed away their cricket gear have an opportunity to be associated with this established and ambitious and successful club!

For further information about the club, or if you are interested in joining either as a player, non player, vice president or lady member, please contact Jonathan Smart on 07710088581 or visit the club's website: *www.cowbridge-cricket.co.uk*

Taster sessions for prospective club members

COWBRIDGE BOWLING CLUB

THE outdoor bowling season starts today (April 1).

At the recent and well attended pre-season meeting, chairman Maurice Dwek welcomed back members and prospective new members.

Ladies captain Diane Purnell and the men's captain Norman Wilkinson spoke about their hopes and aspirations for their teams in their league and cup competitions.

Alan Richards, who organises the internal competitions, requested that entry forms reach him by April 14.

For those interested in social bowls, the club is reviving the Monday afternoon two-hour sessions (2pm-4pm) starting on April 19. Newcomers to the game will be welcomed.

When the longer lighter evenings are with us, members of all abilities can meet for a social triples competition.

This will begin on Friday, June 4 (6.30pm-8.30pm) and continue every Friday until mid August.

On the social side, a 'Poems and Pints' night is being arranged for members in the pavilion on April 30 at 7.30pm.

Year-5 pupils from Y Bont Faen and Llangan Primary will be visiting the green for their introduction to bowls courses in May, as they have done now for many years.

The game of bowls has had an image problem but anyone who has watched the televised indoor game will have noticed that the average age of the bowlers has reduced year on year.

In Wales, two teenagers have been selected for the senior Welsh men's team.

The club is keen to recruit new members who have been active in other sports. Free coaching is available. Why not come to one of the taster sessions?

For further information contact Michael Bradley on 01446 773289.

Flint's mad dash pays dividends

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

LAST Thursday, National Hunt trainer John Flint of Kenfig Hill, teamed up with his jockey son Rhys to land an across-the-card double.

After winning the 2pm at Ludlow with *Bundle Up*, John and Rhys dashed to Chepstow where they arrived in time to win the 4pm race with *Star Galaxy*.

The principal race at Ludlow, the Eddie Mapp Memorial Handicap Chase, was won by Evan Williams' *The Snail*, whose long running winning sequence had come to an end at Flos Las five days earlier when finishing third in a hurdle race.

The Snail was partnered by Williams' assistant James Tudor from Cowbridge.

Twenty-four hours earlier at Hereford, Williams, who trains at Llancarfan, had landed a double with Williams' *Wishes* and *Five Out of Five*.

Saints Cup dream ends

THE Sunday Saints crashed out of the First Division Cup at the semi-final stage after league leaders Athletico Tremains turned on the style.

The opening goal came when the big Athletico forward collected the ball in the area, only to stun the defence and 'keeper by cleverly back-heeling the ball into the net from seven yards out – a great moment of skill.

Athletico doubled their lead as they broke away down the left and the ball was centred to their front man again, who was allowed far too much room and dispatched the ball into the net.

The Saints battled to keep the home side at bay but were dealt a real blow by two quick-fire goals at the end of the half.

The Saints got what they deserved for their second half endeavours when Joel Tofton scored.

The Saints: John MacDonald, Brian Hunt, Alan Lawson, Nicky Cox, Rob West, Reece Lewis, Tom Roberts, Joel Tofton, Leigh Lewis, Jordan Mortimore, Nick Dyke. Substitutes: TJ Bowring, Rob Collings.

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Molly and the Runacres.
Claire and her family were very impressed by Dogs Trust and all the happy, relaxed dogs they met there. Claire says that Molly has given them nothing but pleasure and has "brought the family closer together".

Anoushka and Neil John.
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